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A book speaks to people without opening its mouth! Likewise, it is the best friend that never cheats. Only books connect man to the world. The book is not an ornamental object. It is a friend that guides one on the right path. But for books, humanity would not have achieved development to this degree. Even as exercise develops the body, reading books develops the mind.

Thiru. Edappadi K. Palaniswami
- Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu

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First Wrapper

Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu **Thiru. Edappadi K. Palaniswami** replying to the debate on the motion of thanks to the Hon'ble Governor's address, in the Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly on 09.01.2020.

‘Let us overcome hurdles on our path and score victories’

Greetings of the Hon’ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu **Thiru. Edappadi K. Palaniswami** on the occasion of New year 31.12.2019

(English Translation)

On this pleasant day of joyous celebration of New Year that blossoms with fresh radiance, I happily offer my hearty English New Year good wishes to all my beloved people of Tamil Nadu.

Let us all take a pledge on this New Year that we will create a prosperous Tamil Nadu by overcoming all the hurdles in our path, scoring victories and recording achievements.

Wishing the dawn of Spring in the lives of all, abundance of prosperity and prevalence of peace in this New Year, I once again extend my pleasant New Year good wishes to all the people of Tamil Nadu.

This is a Government that delivers on its promises made to the people of Tamil Nadu

Speech delivered by the Hon'ble Governor of Tamil Nadu
Thiru. Banwarilal Purohit in the Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly on 06.01.2020.

Hon'ble Members of the Legislative Assembly,

Vanakkam.

I am very happy to address the first session of the Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly for the calendar year 2020.

I extend my warm greetings to each one of you for the New Year and for the Pongal festival. I also wish that 2020 will bring greater peace, prosperity and progress to the people of Tamil Nadu.

2) This Government led by the Hon'ble Chief Minister is firmly treading on the path laid out by the late Chief Minister J Jayalalithaa. The Government continues to be single mindedly focused on the socio-economic development of Tamil Nadu and its people, with specific emphasis on protecting the poor and vulnerable. It is a matter of great pride to all of us that Tamil Nadu has secured the first position among 18 big States in the Composite Ranking in the Good Governance Index released by the Government of India for the first time on Good Governance Day on 25th December 2019. Further, Tamil Nadu was also adjudged 'Overall Best Performing State' for the second consecutive year in the 'State of the States' survey carried out by India Today magazine in November 2019. I congratulate the Hon'ble Chief Minister on these very

significant and highly creditable achievements. This Government has achieved the late Chief Minister J Jayalalithaa's goal of making Tamil Nadu the numero uno State in India.

3) This is a Government that delivers on its promises made to the people of Tamil Nadu. In the Governor's Addresses since May 2011, 105 announcements have been made, of which 73 have been fully implemented and the balance are under implementation. Since February 2017, Hon'ble Chief Minister has made 453 announcements under Rule 110 of the Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly Rules. Of this, 114 announcements have been fully implemented, while for 303 announcements, necessary sanction orders have been issued and the schemes are under implementation and will be speedily completed. This amply illustrates that this Government is committed to effective delivery.

4) Grassroots democracy is an inalienable part of Tamil Nadu's heritage from times immemorial. Elections to Rural Local Bodies in 27 Districts have been successfully completed despite many obstacles. The elections in the remaining nine Districts and for the Urban Local Bodies will be held shortly. This demonstrates the Government's commitment to democratic De-centralization.

5) Law and order continues to be very effectively maintained and Tamil Nadu is in the first position in the Judicial and Public Security component of the Good Governance Index. Tamil Nadu is ranked the 'Best Performing State' in maintenance of Law and Order in the 'State of the States' survey. Many major events like the Athivaradhar festival at Kancheepuram, Karthigai Deepam festival in Thiruvannamalai and observance of Thevar Jayanthi were very effectively managed with elaborate bandobust arrangements. Prompt response and timely remedial and preventive action have kept the State peaceful and free of any untoward incidents.

6) The second India-China Informal Summit Meeting between Hon'ble Prime Minister of India, Shri Narendra Modi and His Excellency President of the Peoples' Republic of China, Mr. Xi Jinping was held in Mahabalipuram on October 11th and 12th, 2019. The extensive security and other arrangements made for the event ensured that it was conducted smoothly with least disruption to the local people and received widespread appreciation. The Hon'ble Prime Minister promised a tourism development package for Mahabalipuram and a proposal for Rs.563.50 crore has been prepared and sent to Government of India for approval. I urge the Government of India to accord speedy approval. During the Summit, it was also decided that Fujian province and Quanzhou city in China will establish sister state/province and city relations with Tamil Nadu and Chennai. As a follow-up, a high-level Chinese delegation also visited Chennai recently.

7) This Government places the highest emphasis on fiscal prudence. Despite several challenges, the fiscal targets are being adhered to. There has been a diminution in the overall flow of Central funds to Tamil Nadu. Contrary to the impression that the Fourteenth Finance

Commission's recommendations increased the gross flow of resources from the Centre to the States, in reality there has been a reduction in the gross transfers from the Centre to States. Moreover, Tamil Nadu has faced a more severe adverse impact due to the horizontal distribution formula of the Fourteenth Finance Commission.

8) Tamil Nadu is eagerly awaiting the recommendations of the Fifteenth Finance Commission. This Government has made a detailed presentation before the Finance Commission and is very hopeful of fair and equitable distribution of resources, which rewards efficiency and performance.

9) This year, Tamil Nadu has so far received Rs.7,096 crore as GST compensation. Central Government grants of Rs.17,957.31 crore have also been received so far this year. However, there are a few outstanding issues in the release of dues to Tamil Nadu which are being followed up closely. In the first year of implementation of GST in 2017-2018, instead of distributing 50 per cent of the unallocated IGST in proportion to SGST collection in various States, the Government of India incorrectly appropriated the entire unallocated portion of IGST to the tune of Rs.88,344.22 crore to the Consolidated Fund of India and distributed 42 per cent of this to the States as per the Fourteenth Finance Commission's devolution formula. This resulted in a net loss of Rs.4,073 crore to Tamil Nadu and we are insisting on the immediate release of this amount due to our State. Due to our efforts, this issue has been referred to a Group of Ministers by the GST Council and we seek an early favourable decision. This Government, firmly committed to protect the legitimate interests of the States, has repeatedly raised such issues with the Government of India in multiple fora and at the highest level. I once again urge the Government of India to settle the dues of Tamil Nadu at the earliest.

10) This Government continues to strongly protect the interests of Tamil Nadu in sharing of inter-State river waters. We once again urge the Government of India to ensure that the Detailed Project Report for the Mekedatu project submitted by Government of Karnataka is rejected and returned forthwith and to restrain the Government of Karnataka from taking up any construction activity in the Cauvery basin of Karnataka without the prior consent of the Government of Tamil Nadu, in accordance with the orders of the Hon'ble Supreme Court. The Government of Karnataka is also planning a reservoir across the Markandeya river in the Pennaiyar Basin. In May 2012, the late Chief Minister J Jayalalithaa had written to the then Prime Minister, strongly opposing any construction of storage or diversion structures on the Pennaiyar river in Karnataka. The matter was also taken up a number of times subsequently and finally, the Government of Tamil Nadu has filed a suit in the Supreme Court in May 2018. Based on the interim order of the Supreme Court, Tamil Nadu has requested the Government of India to constitute a Tribunal under the Inter-State River Water Disputes Act, 1956 on the Pennaiyar dispute. The main case is still pending in the Supreme Court. This Government urges the Government of India

to constitute the Tribunal at the earliest and to direct the Government of Karnataka not to take up any water storage or diversion works in the Pennaiyar Basin without Tamil Nadu's consent.

11) I compliment the Hon'ble Chief Minister for his amicable approach on the Parambikulam Aliyar Project and related issues and his initiative to visit Thiruvananthapuram to hold fruitful talks with his Kerala counter-part. These have been followed up by further talks at the official level. The Hon'ble Supreme Court has permitted Tamil Nadu to carry out strengthening works in the Mullai Periyar dam to restore the water level to 152 ft. Accordingly, the Government of Tamil Nadu has sanctioned Rs.7.85 crore for carrying out strengthening works for which environmental clearances are required. This Government urges the Government of Kerala and the Government of India to accord requisite clearances for strengthening the Mullai Periyar dam at the earliest.

12) The Hon'ble Chief Minister appealed to the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh to release water from Kandaleru reservoir for meeting Chennai's drinking water needs and in response, water was released for Chennai by Andhra Pradesh at a very crucial time. We thank the Government of Andhra Pradesh for their timely gesture.

13) The Government of Tamil Nadu will urge the Government of India to provide dual citizenship to Srilankan Tamil refugees in Tamil Nadu. Government of Tamil Nadu will ensure that the interests of all citizens regardless of religion or creed are protected.

14) With the proactive steps taken by the Government of Tamil Nadu, the number of fishermen and fishing boats apprehended by the Sri Lankan Navy in the Palk Bay has come down during 2018 and 2019. As of now, only 17 fishermen continue to be in Sri Lankan custody and efforts are being taken to release them at the earliest. The State Government reiterates its demand that the Government of India should intervene and have this issue amicably resolved at the earliest.

15) Ensuring clean administration as well as transparency and accountability in governance is the foremost goal of this Government. Tamil Nadu Lokayukta Act, 2018 was enacted and with the appointment of the Chairman and four Members, the Tamil Nadu Lokayukta has been made functional. Speedy redressal of public grievances has been enabled through the AMMA Thittam and the Taluk Online Petition Monitoring System. As a flagship scheme for on the spot grievance redressal, the Hon'ble Chief Minister's Special Grievances Redressal Scheme was launched in August 2019, under which so far 9.77 lakh petitions have been received and 5.18 lakh petitions have been favourably disposed of, in a record time of 40 days. The formation of five new Districts viz., Tenkasi, Kallakurichi, Ranipet, Tiruppathur and Chengalpattu will take administration much closer to the people.

16) Being prepared for natural disasters and responding to them effectively saves lives

and property. The State Disaster Management Perspective Plan for the period upto 2030, the formation of the Tamil Nadu Disaster Response Force with one full Special Police Battalion and the use of technology including aerial photogrammetry using Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAVs), Geographical Information System (GIS) and high end communication and rescue equipment are all measures to enhance preparedness. Mass awareness programmes have been conducted on the preventive steps to be taken to minimize the loss of life and damage to properties during disasters.

17) This Government takes great pride in promoting Tamil language and culture. I commend the Hon'ble Chief Minister for announcing November 1st every year as 'Tamil Nadu Day' to commemorate the formation of the State in its present form in 1956. The Government of Tamil Nadu supported the Tenth International Tamil Research Conference held at Chicago in July 2019 and provided Rs.1 crore as financial assistance for the establishment of a Tamil Chair in the University of Houston in the United States. The memory of Tamil leaders, Tamil scholars and freedom fighters continues to be perpetuated and their contributions honoured through the institution of awards, establishment of memorials and official observance of birth anniversaries. The Ninaivu Mandapam for Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma Selvi J Jayalalithaa, at a cost of Rs.50.80 crore, will be completed shortly.

18) This year we commemorate the 150th Birth Anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi. On 22nd September 1921 in Madurai, Mahatma Gandhi took the historic decision to wear only a loin cloth and shawl as a powerful message to the world about the abject poverty in India caused by British Rule. To commemorate this event, I urge the Government of India to upgrade the Gandhigram Rural Institute near Madurai as a Centre of Eminence for Rural Development and Gandhian Philosophy. Tiruchengode Gandhi Ashram was founded by Bharat Ratna Rajaji on 6th February 1925. Mahatma Gandhi visited this Ashram twice. The Government has decided to provide a one time grant of Rs.2 crore to support the activities of the Gandhi Ashram, Tiruchengode. The Government will support revival of the activities of the Ashram to further spread the message of Mahatma Gandhi. Tamil Nadu has been awarded the 'Overall Best State' for the Swachh Survekshan Grameen 2019 by the Hon'ble Prime Minister during the Swachh Bharat Diwas on 2nd October 2019.

19) Utilising the scarce water resources of Tamil Nadu for the maximum benefit of the people is a sacred duty and the Hon'ble Chief Minister has launched the Tamil Nadu Water Resources Conservation and Augmentation Mission as a people's movement. An important element of the Water Mission is the Kudimaramath scheme for restoring irrigation supply channels, canals and tanks, which has gained further momentum with people's participation. Since 2016-2017, a total number of 4,871 works at a cost of Rs.931.76 crore have been taken up under this scheme. The deepening and desilting of water bodies has meant that much more of this year's good rains could be harvested and stored for irrigation, drinking

water and ground water recharge. The Hon'ble Chief Minister has announced the 'Nadanthai Vazhi Cauvery' scheme in order to restore the River Cauvery to its pristine glory. As Tamil Nadu is a water deficit State, inter basin transfer of river water is essential to meet its water needs. To fulfill this need, this Government urges the Government of India to divert at least 200 TMC of water from the Godavari to the Cauvery basin, as the initial stage of the inter-State river water linkage. This Government on its part, will pursue inter linking of rivers within the State and will implement the Cauvery-Gundar river linkage project, under which as the first phase, the Cauvery-South Vellar link will be taken up during the ensuing financial year, as already announced by the Hon'ble Chief Minister.

20) This Government continues to vigorously pursue the objective of creating sustainable livelihood options for farmers through extension of front end technology, market integration, value added production, promotion of Farmer Producer Organisations (FPO) and food processing industries. Given the favourable monsoon this year and irrigation water reaching tail-end areas through better management, the area sown has increased by 7 lakh acres and a bountiful food grain production of 115 lakh metric tonnes is expected. Tamil Nadu continues to be the leading State in the implementation of the Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana and the Micro Irrigation scheme. Under the Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana, the farmers in Tamil Nadu have received insurance compensation claims in excess of Rs.7,200 crore in the past 3 years. The Tamil Nadu Agriculture Produce and Livestock Contract Farming Act, 2019 has been passed which will enable farmers to sell farm produce at pre agreed prices. The Sugar Industry is facing a crisis, which is adversely affecting the livelihood of sugarcane farmers. As part of the way forward, financial restructuring of the sugar mills is required and I request the Union Government to announce a special financial package to assist the revival of the sugar sector in Tamil Nadu.

21) In a significant structural transformation, the share of the livestock sector in the Gross State Value Added at constant prices has exceeded the share of the agricultural sector in each of the 3 years from 2016-2017 to 2018-2019. This rapid growth of the livestock sector has been fuelled by the success of flagship schemes of this Government, including the free distribution of milch cows, goats, sheep and native breeds of poultry. The Government has established two new Veterinary Colleges since 2011 and recently sanctioned one more Veterinary College at Thalaivasal in Salem District to take the total number of Veterinary Colleges in Tamil Nadu to five.

To provide a further thrust to the livestock sector, the Hon'ble Chief Minister will shortly be laying the foundation stone for the Advanced Integrated Institute for Research in Livestocks and Animal Sciences and the Veterinary College at Thalaivasal in Salem District at a total cost of Rs.1,000 crore. I thank the Government of India for having protected the interest of the dairy industry in India by acceding to the request of this Government and not entering into a Free

Trade Agreement (FTA) in dairy products as a part of the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) with ASEAN and the Pacific region countries.

22) I thank the Government of India for its support in implementing the scheme of diversification of trawl fishing boats in the Palk Bay into deep sea fishing boats including tuna longliners. Fishing harbours at Mookaiyur and Kunthukal at a cost of Rs.120 crore and Rs.100 crore respectively are nearing completion. A fishing harbour at Vellapallam in Nagapattinam District is to be established at a cost of Rs.100 crore. We have obtained support from Government of India and NABARD for establishing fishing harbours at Thiruvotriyurkuppam, Tharangambadi and Mudhunagar at a cost of Rs.420 crore. All these projects will further promote deep sea fishing in the State.

23) The Universal Public Distribution System of Tamil Nadu continues to be the model for other States to emulate. Tamil Nadu with its fully computerized, Aadhaar enabled PDS operations, is able to operationalize the 'One Nation One Ration Card' scheme. This year, although we had a normal monsoon season, the farmers are still awaiting harvest. A country will flourish only if farmers are happy. I appreciate the Hon'ble Chief Minister for his announcement of distributing Pongal gift hampers and a cash gift of Rs.1,000 per family, once again, to enable the people of Tamil Nadu to celebrate Pongal festival with gaiety and fervour.

24) As envisioned by the late Chief Minister J Jayalalithaa in the Vision Tamil Nadu 2023, Tamil Nadu is emerging as the most preferred destination for investment in manufacturing, trade and services due to intrinsic strengths in human resources and infrastructure. There is increased enthusiasm amongst investors to invest in Tamil Nadu due to the strong fundamentals including the diversified economy, ease of doing business, investor-friendly Government and our accessible Chief Minister. I appreciate the Hon'ble Chief Minister for taking direct responsibility for attracting investment to Tamil Nadu by visiting UK, USA and Dubai in September, 2019 and by chairing the High Power Committee to expedite single window approvals. The Global Investors Meet held in January, 2019 was a major success attracting Rs.3,00,501 crore worth of investments providing employment to 10.5 lakh persons. Till date, 53 projects have already commenced commercial production and 219 projects are at various stages of implementation. After the Global Investors Meet, 63 new MoUs have been signed, committing an investment of Rs.19,136 crore with employment potential for 83,837 new jobs.

25) The Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME) sector continues to be the backbone of industrial employment in Tamil Nadu with 21.53 lakh registered units which provide employment to 1.38 crore persons. To provide a further fillip to the textile industry which is one of the largest employers in the State, the Tamil Nadu New Integrated Textile Policy, 2019 was launched in March,

2019 focusing on attracting new investment, technology upgradation and skilling. The Government of Tamil Nadu has taken many steps to improve the ease of doing business for MSMEs and to encourage start ups. The Tamil Nadu Start Up and Innovation Policy launched in January 2019 has greatly improved the start-up environment.

26) The Government is harnessing Information and Communication Technology to ensure improved public service delivery and greater transparency in governance. To enhance broadband connectivity across the State, the Government of Tamil Nadu has secured the approval of the Government of India for the BharatNet project at an estimated cost of Rs.1,815.31 crore. This project will connect all the 12,524 Village Panchayats in the State. Shortly, the Tamil Net Project will also be implemented to connect all the Corporations, Municipalities and Town Panchayats. The Tamil Nadu e-Governance Agency is harnessing Emerging Technologies like Artificial Intelligence (AI), Blockchain, Internet of Things (IoT) and Data Analytics for enhancing Government service delivery.

27) The tourism industry is an engine of development with large employment potential. Tamil Nadu continues to receive the largest number of both domestic and foreign tourists in the country. As already announced, the Tamil Nadu Tourism Promotion Project will be launched at a cost of Rs.2,000 crore to showcase the large and diverse tourism potential of the State in a sustainable manner and to ensure greater local employment and prosperity. Under this project, 295 destinations will be developed in six circuits with provision of world class infrastructure adopting a comprehensive area development approach through a Public-Private Partnership model.

28) In Vision Tamil Nadu 2023, the late Chief Minister J Jayalalithaa had stated that Tamil Nadu would provide high quality infrastructure all over the State, comparable with the best in the world to its residents. The efforts made by this Government to realize the vision, have secured for Tamil Nadu the first rank in the Public Infrastructure and Utilities sector of the Good Governance Index. The indicators include those related to water supply, sanitation, rural connectivity, access to clean cooking fuel, access and availability of power supply and growth in per capita power consumption.

29) The late Chief Minister J Jayalalithaa ensured that Tamil Nadu turned into a power surplus State from being a power deficit State. The installed generation capacity in Tamil Nadu was nearly doubled in the last eight years to 31,426 MW. This Government lays the highest emphasis on ensuring that the power surplus status of Tamil Nadu is sustained and a further 17,850 MW of generation capacity is under execution. Tamil Nadu is a world leader in renewable energy with an installed capacity of 13,319 MW. The Hon'ble Chief Minister launched the Solar Energy Policy, 2019 which targets creation of 9,000 MW of both distributed and utility scale solar power generation.

30) Tamil Nadu has always prided itself

on the connectivity provided by its high quality road network. This Government ensures that the road network is consistently upgraded and made safer under the Comprehensive Road Infrastructure Development Programme. The upgradation of the road network in the influence zone of the Chennai Kanniyakumari Industrial Corridor Project has been taken up with the assistance of the Asian Development Bank at a cost of Rs.6,448 crore. The first phase of the Chennai Peripheral Ring Road (CPRR) project from Ennore Port to Thatchur has been taken up with JICA assistance at a cost of Rs.2,673.42 crore and land acquisition for the remaining portions of the CPRR has also commenced. The multi-pronged efforts of the Government have resulted in a substantial reduction of road accidents from 71,431 in 2016 to 63,923 in 2018 and fatal road accidents from 16,092 in 2016 to 11,378 in 2018. The number of fatalities per 10,000 vehicles has fallen from 12 in 2010 to three in 2019.

31) The reach and quality of bus transportation in Tamil Nadu has always been the pride of the State. The State Transport Undertakings (STUs) carry 1.63 crore passengers a day, and the Government is committed to further increasing the ridership share of public transportation in the State. While public transport fares are the lowest in the country, there is no compromise in performance and the 8 STUs in Tamil Nadu have won 11 Association of State Road Transport Undertakings awards in 2016-2017 and 9 awards in 2017-2018 for physical performance parameters. The State Transport Corporations will introduce electric vehicles at scale through the Government of India supported FAME-II programme and with KfW assistance.

32) Chennai Metro Rail is fast becoming the pride of Chennai City. Phase-I of the Chennai Metro Rail for a length of 45 km, is fully operational and the Phase-I extension upto Thiruvottiyur / Wimco Nagar will be completed by mid 2020. The Government has already approved the implementation of three more Chennai Metro Rail corridors in Phase-II with a total length of 118.9 km, at an estimated cost of Rs.69,180 crore. While JICA has agreed to fund a stretch of 52.01 km, and the first tranche of the loan agreement has been signed, multilateral assistance from the Asian Development Bank, Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank and the New Development Bank is being availed of for the remaining stretches under Phase-II. I urge the Government of India to accord early approval for their participation in the Phase-II project on the 50:50 equity sharing model adopted for Phase-I. Based on a feasibility study, the Government has decided to extend the Metro Rail Corridor by 15.3 km from the Chennai Airport to Kilambakkam, where a new mofussil bus stand is coming up. To address increasing traffic congestion on the Tambaram-Velachery Corridor, the Government will establish a rail based transit system for a total of 15.5 km and Chennai Metro Rail Limited will prepare the Detailed Feasibility and Project Report.

33) Integration of multiple modes of transportation is the way forward. The Chennai Unified Metropolitan Transport Authority (CUMTA) Act and Rules have already been

notified and have come into effect. The Government of Tamil Nadu proposes to enter into a 'Chennai City Partnership' as a unique model of development co-operation with the World Bank, in which one of the pillars is urban mobility and transportation. The goal is to integrate the multiple transportation modes in Chennai and enable the seamless mobility of people in the city through an empowered CUMTA.

34) Tamil Nadu is the most urbanized large state in the country and requires a special emphasis on provision of quality urban infrastructure and services. In addition to various Central schemes like the Smart City Programme, Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation (AMRUT) programme, the grants received under the recommendations of the Fourteenth Finance Commission and the devolution recommended by the State Finance Commission, the State Government augments the resources of urban local bodies through the Integrated Urban Development Mission and the Chennai Mega City Development Mission. Multilateral funding through the World Bank assisted Tamil Nadu Sustainable Urban Development Programme and the Asian Development Bank assisted Tamil Nadu Urban Flagship Investment Programme ensures additional resources to meet urban infrastructure requirements.

35) Housing is one of the basic needs which this Government is committed to meet. In rural areas, under the Chief Minister's Solar Powered Green Housing Scheme, so far 3,80,000 houses have been sanctioned from the year 2011-12 onwards. Under the Indira Awas Yojana and Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (Gramin), a total of 9,69,189 houses have been taken up for construction from 2011-12 onwards. The shortage of quality housing in urban areas has been systematically addressed by this Government. Under the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (Urban), construction of 6.94 lakh dwelling units at a total project cost of Rs.31,252.95 crore has been taken up. The Common Building and Development Rules notified by the Government have provided a substantial fillip to the affordable housing sector.

36) Tamil Nadu continues to be a leading State in achieving the targets for health indicators including Infant Mortality Rate, Maternal Mortality Ratio and Life Expectancy at Birth. This has been enabled by implementing several landmark schemes. The National Schemes announced by Government of India similar to schemes already implemented in Tamil Nadu, have been effectively integrated for efficient implementation - the Chief Minister's Comprehensive Health Insurance Scheme has been integrated with the Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana and the Dr. Muthulakshmi Reddy Maternity Benefit Scheme with the Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana. Under the Chief Minister's Comprehensive Health Insurance Scheme, so far 40.16 lakh persons have been provided treatment at a total cost of Rs.6,487.82 crore and 8,513 persons have been assisted for high-end surgeries from the corpus fund. To prevent outbreaks of mosquito borne diseases like dengue, malaria and chikungunya,

the Government will distribute free mosquito nets to all poor families in the endemic areas, as already announced by the Hon'ble Chief Minister.

37) Upgrading human resources in the health sector is a key goal of the Government. The vision of the late Chief Minister J Jayalalithaa was to establish a Government Medical College in each District of the State. This year we have made a substantial and unprecedented leap in that direction, with the establishment of nine new medical colleges at Ramanathapuram, Virudhunagar, Nilgiris, Dindigul, Namakkal, Tiruppur, Thiruvallur, Krishnagiri and Nagapattinam Districts at a total cost of Rs.3,267.25 crore. This was enabled by the swift action of the State Government in identifying suitable sites and effective follow up with the Government of India.

38) Tamil Nadu aims to become a vibrant knowledge society with world class human resources. The Government's efforts in this direction have resulted in the highest Gross Enrolment Ratio in Higher Education amongst all States in India at 49.3 per cent. The Government has opened new colleges, commenced new courses, invested in provision of improved infrastructure, created more posts of teachers and filled teacher vacancies to make higher education more accessible and to enhance quality. Anna University has been selected by Government of India as an Institution of Eminence. Government of India have clarified that since Anna University is a State Public University set up under a State Act, it would continue to function under the State Act and the State reservation policy will continue to be applicable to it, even after getting the status of Institution of Eminence. The Government has constituted a Committee comprising five Hon'ble Ministers to study the issues and an appropriate decision will be taken based on the recommendations of the Committee.

39) Government of Tamil Nadu's consistent effort is to ensure the continuance of cent percent enrolment and retention of students in schools, by providing quality infrastructure, nutritious noon meals, full complement of teaching staff, text books, school supplies needed by students and quality teaching aids. The Government continues to revise and update the curriculum, incorporating modern concepts of education to continuously maintain standards. Information and Communication Technology (ICT) is also harnessed through the use of energized technologies with Quick Response (QR) codes, links to audio visual content, the Tamil Nadu Teachers Portal and through the educational channel 'Kalvi' telecast 24x7 by the Tamil Nadu Arasu Cable TV Corporation. The scheme to implement Model Composite Schools with classes from LKG to Twelfth standard has now been extended to 120 Government schools across the State and is functioning successfully.

40) Tamil Nadu Skill Development Corporation has completed a skill gap study and formulated District Skill Development Plans for all Districts to enable the supply of trained human resources for various industries. This approach will greatly enhance an industry oriented employment focus of skill development. Memoranda of Understanding for

the establishment of Apex Skill Development Centres (ASDC) in three sectors – auto, auto-component machine tools; health & health care and logistics & transportation have been signed. Two more MoUs are to be signed to establish ASDCs in the Construction and Banking, Financial Services and Insurance (BFSI) sectors. Government will launch a special initiative under the Tamil Nadu Skill Development Mission to identify one lakh college dropouts and provide them special training which will enable them to either complete their higher education courses or find appropriate employment.

41) Tamil Nadu is internationally acclaimed for being a pioneer in imposing the ban on 'one-time use and throw' plastics from January 2019. People of the State have spontaneously come forward to adhere to the ban and have greatly reduced the use of plastics. The Government is fully committed to the ban and its implementation through enforcement and promotion of alternative products. The Government has proposed several projects to the Government of India for consideration under the Green Climate Fund and National Adaptation Fund on Climate Change at a cost of Rs.4,682 crore. I request the Government of India to speedily approve these proposals.

42) Broad basing sports and development of a sporting culture is the goal of this Government. Under the AMMA Youth Sports Scheme, youth clubs are being formed in all villages and Town Panchayats and play fields with necessary sports equipment are being provided. The conduct of tournaments at block, District and State levels will enable identification of talent, apart from channelizing the energies of the youth in a positive direction. Government of Tamil Nadu's scheme of awarding high cash incentives to recognize medal winning performances in international and national events and providing three per cent reservation for sportspersons in employment has greatly encouraged sports persons of the State.

43) Tamil Nadu is a forerunner in the empowerment of women through education, employment and economic development. The Tamil Nadu State Rural Livelihood Mission is being implemented in all blocks of the State except Chennai District. Self Help Groups, Village Poverty Reduction Committees and Panchayat Level Federations are community based organisations creating a socio-economic revolution in rural Tamil Nadu. In 2019-2020, a total credit linkage of Rs.12,500 crore is targeted for the Self Help Groups in the State.

44) The effective implementation of welfare schemes intended for women including Marriage Assistance Schemes, the Cradle Baby Scheme, the Girl Child Protection Scheme and the 'Beti Bachao Beti Padhao' scheme, have all resulted in the improvement of sex ratio at birth from 917 to 943 in the last three years. Tamil Nadu ensures that immediate emergency response is provided 24x7 for women in distress facing violence and threat of violence in both public and private places. The 'Kavalan' App has been highly successful in giving

women a greater sense of security. Effective implementation of programmes intended for welfare of children, secured for Tamil Nadu, the first position in the 'Overall Excellence in Implementation' and 'Capacity Building' categories of the Poshan Abhiyan (National Nutrition Mission) Awards for 2018-2019.

45) Ensuring social security for senior citizens is an important duty of a welfare State. The proportion of senior citizens in Tamil Nadu is increasing. Tamil Nadu is implementing five Social Security schemes which provide a pension of Rs.1,000 per month. As on date, the sanctioned strength of Social Security Pensions is 29.80 lakh. The Hon'ble Chief Minister has announced that an additional 5 lakh eligible persons would be provided Social Security Pensions from the current year onwards. The Government has also relaxed the criteria to determine destitution under Social Security / Old Age Pension Schemes, by increasing the value of fixed assets owned by the individual from Rs.50,000 to Rs.1 lakh. A free house assigned under any scheme of Government will not be included in the definition of fixed assets.

46) Tamil Nadu aims to be an inclusive society where the socially deprived sections including Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, Backward Classes, Most Backward Classes, Denotified Communities, Minorities and the Differently Abled are safe, secure and empowered. Carefully targeted schemes are implemented for families belonging to these socially deprived sections to ensure that they have access to education and to adequate employment and livelihood opportunities. Through the Tamil Nadu Adi Dravidar Housing and Development Corporation, Tamil Nadu Backward Classes Economic Development Corporation and the Tamil Nadu Minorities Economic Development Corporation, the economic development of persons belonging to Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, Backward Classes, Most Backward Classes, Denotified Communities and Minorities is ensured.

47) This Government is fully committed to the cause of social justice and will protect the 69 per cent reservation followed in the State for the Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, Backward Classes, Backward Class Muslims, Most Backward Classes and Denotified Communities. The 4 per cent reservation in employment for differently abled persons will be ensured and suitable posts identified in all categories to provide them employment.

48) I have outlined the policy priorities and programmatic interventions of the State Government. This House is the highest democratic deliberative body in the State and will now debate and discuss the contents of this address. I urge that the debate and discussion centre on the welfare of the people and the socio-economic development of the State. I am confident that each one of you will make a valuable contribution in this direction. I once again wish you a very happy and prosperous 2020 and a happy Pongal.

Nandri! Vanakkam!

Jai Hind.

Hon’ble Chief Minister arrays proof of achievements

‘Amma’s Government is working with sincerity and dedication for the people of Tamil Nadu’

Hon’ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu **Thiru. Edappadi K. Palaniswami’s** reply on 09.01.2020 to the debate on the Hon’ble Governor’s Address to the Assembly. *(English Translation)*

Hon’ble Speaker Sir,

My reply to the debate on Hon’ble Governor’s Address to the Legislative Assembly delivered on 06.01.2020.

My adoration and obeisance to our Amma Goddess! She is the ‘*Natramizh Naayaki*’ who fostered righteousness and the Tamil language, ‘Annai Tamizharasi’ who shone with intelligence and authority, the embodiment of Love, adored by the world, the Goddess with the name Amma who elicited the feeling of worship with the devout call, ‘Ammaiye’, the historic warrior who saved social justice, ‘Ponniyin Selvi’ who retrieved the Cauvery river, the Visionary who gave ‘Vision 2023’ reflecting the aspirations of Tamils, our family deity who pervades all that

the eye can behold, the people's leader, who despite departing is ever present in the hearts of the people, the seven-note musical mode who lived to great renown, a sweet tongued nectar with six flavours, the five-fold terrain that embraced the people, the four Vedas of good teaching, the three-fold Shakti that protects the country, the two-line Kural that disciplines life, the One magnificent and incomparable Leader who said, 'I am of the People; I am for the People' and lived it, and dwells forever in our hearts and homes.

Hon'ble Speaker Sir,

This House still glows due to the radiance of Hon'ble Amma's face. It still reverberates with her profound speech. I commence my speech, bowing to Hon'ble Amma who had the might of transforming ordinary people into a strong force and make them take a seat in this House, and also pay my respects to this House.

Hon'ble Speaker Sir,

Hon'ble Members have given their invaluable views in this debate on the motion of thanks to the Hon'ble Governor for his Address to this House on 06.01.2020, moved by the Hon'ble Deputy Speaker Thiru. Pollachi Jayaraman and seconded by Hon'ble Member Thiru. Prabakaran. At the outset, I convey my gratitude to Hon'ble Members who had expressed appreciation or critical views in their speeches.

When Amma's rule blossomed again in Tamil Nadu in 2011, Hon'ble Amma assured: "Forget your sorrow; remain smiling hereafter; a bright future awaits you" and, "We will definitely honour the faith placed on us and carry out the responsibilities given to us". She implemented in her rule not only what she had stated but many other welfare schemes not spoken of.

Hon'ble Speaker Sir,

Emperor Nedunchezhian of Sangam days defeated many kings. A poet who wished that the Emperor should shine not merely in battle fields but also in the field of agriculture, advised him thus: "*Nilan neri marungin neer nilai peruga*" - Better than defeating and imprisoning the enemy, conserving rain water in lakes and tanks will benefit the country. He said the world would honour forever only those who conserved water. In consonance with that poet's statement, 34,874 water bodies – big lakes, minor irrigation lakes, tanks, *Ooranis* and ponds - that were not de-silted and repaired for long are being restored from the year 2017 at a cost of Rs.2,182 crore. These works were taken up under the '*kudimaramathu*' scheme through farmers associations and with their participation. More over 1,315 water bodies, maintained by Municipal Corporations, Municipalities and Town Panchayats have been restored at a cost of Rs.811.68 crore. Also, 59 major check dams have been constructed through the Public Works Department and 40,000 minor ones through the Department of Rural Development at a cost of Rs.1,141 crore across water bodies like rivers, *Odais* and canals.

As if Nature itself has acknowledged the work of Hon'ble Amma's Government that functions with sincerity and dedication, the monsoon was active all over the state and most

of the dredged water bodies have filled to the brim.

In the past, it would take several days for water to reach the tail-end areas in the Cauvery delta region. But this year, water flowed freely and reached the tail-end areas in just 15 to 20 days as de-silting works in Cauvery delta Districts and '*kudimaramathu*' scheme all over Tamil Nadu were undertaken effectively. This has motivated farmers to happily take up cultivation in an intensive manner.

The area of cultivation of agricultural crops in Tamil Nadu has increased this year from 85.30 lakh acres this day last year to 97.31 lakh acres. This was possible because we tended and safeguarded farmers and met all their needs at the correct time in accordance with Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivar M.G.R.'s song "*Kadavul enum mudhalali kandetuttha thozhilali vivasayee*" ('The farmer is god's favourite worker'). On account of this, I am happy to inform this House that food grain production in Tamil Nadu will reach a new mile-stone this year.

To take forward rain water conservation on the lines of Hon'ble Amma, increase and safeguard water bodies storage capacity, ensure efficient water utilization for agriculture, reduce the need for fresh water, prevent water bodies pollution and to encourage the use of treated and recycled sewage on a large scale, I inaugurated last year an intensive people's movement, the Water Resources Conservation and Augmentation Mission.

By way of strengthening this scheme, I inaugurated tertiary sewage treatment stations with a capacity of 45 million litres water per day each at Koyambedu and Kodungaiyur so that treated water can continue to be supplied to the ever-increasing industries in Chennai city. The production capacity in these 2 stations is proposed to be increased to 60 MLD each. Through this, I am happy to inform, that Chennai will become the only city in India that recycles 20 per cent of its sewage.

Also, to prevent sewage draining into the water courses in the Chennai city, inclusive of Cooum, Adyar, Buckingham canal, schemes costing Rs.2,371 crore are proposed to be implemented. To meet the drinking water needs of Chennai, Hon'ble Amma brought into operation the scheme of purifying sea water into potable water through two de-salination plants with a capacity of 100 million litres of water each at Minjur and Nemmeli. In a similar fashion, I inaugurated a new scheme at Nemmeli on 27.06.2019 for a desalination plant with a capacity of 150 million litres of water. G.O. has been issued for a 400 million litre desalination plant at Perur and works are in progress.

I can firmly declare that through these schemes drinking water needs of Chennai city can be met even if monsoons fail.

Moreover, in the last 3 years, 25 Combined Water Supply Schemes, costing Rs.3,000 crore and benefiting 57.81 lakh people in 14 Districts inclusive of Pudukkottai,Thanjavur, Sivagangai, Dindigul and Virudhunagar and 15 exclusive urban water schemes, costing Rs.373 crore and benefiting 12.57 lakh people in 11 Districts including Theni, Dindigul, Thenkasi, Villupuram, Nilgiris and

Tirupathur have been implemented. Similarly, 11 underground sewerage schemes, costing Rs.407 crore, benefiting 5.55 lakh people in 8 Districts inclusive of Krishnagiri, Theni, Virudhunagar and Ariyalur have been implemented.

Hon'ble Speaker Sir,

We say agriculture is the backbone of a country. Thiruvalluvar said '*Suzhandrum erpinnathu ulagu*'. As an agriculturist, I have well realized that people can take a morsel of food in hand only if the farmer dirties his leg in mire. Tamil Nadu has set a record by crossing the 100 lakh metric tonne mark in food grain production for the sixth time in the last 8 years. Also, in this period, Hon'ble Amma's Government won the Central Government's Krishi Karman Award five times.

In the last 3 years, the Tamil Nadu Government has secured, under the Prime Minister Crop Insurance Scheme, Rs.7,283 crore to agriculturists as compensation. At the national level, this is an achievement.

Besides taking immediate action to protect the maize crop, affected by the Fall Army worm in 17 Districts in Tamil Nadu, the Government provided a relief of Rs.186.25 crore to the affected farmers. To control this pest's attack this year, Hon'ble Amma's Government, on its own, took action to spray pesticide at a cost of Rs.47.66 crore and received agriculturists' great endorsement.

Hon'ble Speaker Sir,

To increase agricultural production, Rs.7,000 crore crop loan was disbursed till 31.12.2019 in the current financial year to 9 lakh micro and small farmers through the primary agriculture co-operative credit societies. As paddy production will increase this year due to the good monsoon and the increase in cultivation area, additional paddy procurement centres will be set wherever needed so that agriculturists can get due prices for their produce.

After examining the demands from different sections of people, I ordered the conversion of sugar family cards into rice family cards. This helps people to get essential commodities as per their needs.

This year, agriculturists have spent a considerable amount of their money due to increased area of cultivation and towards inputs and other works as there is enough water for irrigation due to good monsoon. I am happy to inform this House that to help all sections of people celebrate Tamil festival of Pongal with enthusiasm, I have ordered the distribution of Pongal gift hamper with Rs.1,000 cash and it is given from today to all rice family card holders.

Hon'ble Speaker Sir,

In the recently published census figures for livestock and birds, Tamil Nadu is found to have recorded an increase of 7.6 per cent in livestock. This is due to the distribution of milch cows, goats and sheep at no cost, a scheme that is a brain child of Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma. I wish to state that animal husbandry has improved the state's economic development by enhancing the village economy.

In the last Assembly session, I announced that a modern livestock park would be set up at a cost of Rs.1,000 crore near Thalaivasal

Koottu road to help agriculturists get the latest technology. I am happy to say that a G.O. has been issued for that and works are being carried out speedily. After visiting the world famous Buffalo farm in the US, I ordered officials to employ the modern measures used there in the proposed Livestock Park at Thalaivasal for the benefit of agriculturists in Tamil Nadu. I am happy to say that a Government order has been issued for the setting of the fifth livestock medical college in Tamil Nadu in this complex.

As a pioneering state for many schemes, an 'Amma Ambulance' service, on the model of '108-ambulance service' has been started in Tamil Nadu for emergency treatment to livestock and Hon'ble Amma's Government is operating it well for the benefit of farmers.

Tamil Nadu has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Central Government for Rs.420 crore for setting up fishing harbours, under the Central Government's fisheries and infrastructure development scheme, at Tiruvottiyur Kuppam (Rs.200 crore), Tharangampadi (Rs.120 crore) and at Muthunagar, Cuddalore (Rs.100 crore). I am happy to inform this House that Tamil Nadu has got the maximum amount under this Central Government's scheme, so far.

Also, to ensure the safety of fishermen while fishing in sea, the Tamil Nadu Government is taking steps that can set a precedent. It has distributed 25,000 VHF sets, 160 satellite equipment and through the Indian Meteorological Centre, 507 transponders to deep-sea and coastal fishermen. Through this, the safety of all fishermen has been ensured.

Hon'ble Speaker Sir,

I went on an official tour of England, United States of America and United Arab Emirates from 26.08.2019 to 10.09.2019 to understand and implement in Tamil Nadu the various developments and technology achieved in respect of health sector in those countries and get investment from overseas Tamils and other investors for taking the state on the path of growth. A Memorandum of Understanding was signed with the internationally famous Kings Institute in England for starting its branch in Tamil Nadu. Talks are being held with that Institute at various levels. Shortly a branch of Kings Institute will be set up in Tamil Nadu.

Hon'ble Speaker Sir,

In the last Assembly session, I announced a pioneering scheme '*Yadhum Oore*' to further improve Tamil Nadu's industrial growth, by getting overseas Tamils guidance on this front and welcoming global Tamil entrepreneurs who are desirous of starting industries in Tamil Nadu, as well as others. I inaugurated that scheme in the US. Industrial investors in England, the US and Dubai were met in this tour, an investment of Rs.8,835 crore was attracted and MoUs were signed with 41 companies. This is likely to create job opportunities for more than 35,520 persons. Of these companies, 5 have started operations. During this official tour, I also understood that foreign investors, particularly Tamil youth, are eager to make different types of investments in Tamil Nadu.

Hon'ble Speaker Sir,

For the development of the industrial sector, Hon'ble Amma's Government has successfully

implemented schemes like forming a separate committee under my leadership to monitor and expedite single window clearance through the Tamil Nadu Business Facilitation Act and creating a separate section in Chief Minister's office to facilitate investments. It has formed an Aerospace and Defence Industrial Park and Electric Vehicle Park. It has unveiled 'Startup and Innovation policy' to encourage startup industries, 'Information Technology policy' and an 'Aerospace and Defence Industrial Policy'.

Following the success of the Global Investors Meet held at Chennai under the leadership of Hon'ble Amma in 2015, the second such Meet took place last year at Chennai on January 23 and 24. In this Meet, industrial investments to the extent of Rs.3,00,501 crore, capable of generating 10 lakh job opportunities, were attracted through 304 MoUs. Of these, 272 companies have started their works which are in different stages of execution. This accounts for about 90 per cent of the agreements signed. This indicates the investors firm belief in Hon'ble Amma's Government. The 3,592 industrial projects, signed on behalf of the Department of Micro, Small and Medium Industries, have started their works and they are in different stages of execution.

After the successfully conducted Global Investors Meet, 63 MoUs, valued at Rs.19,000 crore have so far been signed. Through them, 83,000 job opportunities have been newly created.

The Salcomp company has entered into an agreement for the purchase of Nokia's factory that was shut down due to industrial problems, for producing electronic components. Besides, the Foxconn company has started works, as per the MoU agreed in the Global Investors Meet, in the Nokia Special Economic Zone, for production of electronic components at an investment of Rs.2,500 crore. This will create 20,000 new jobs.

Like these, a situation has been created due to the consistent efforts of this welfare Government, where closed down industrial units too are being revived.

It is to be noted that in its report for the year 2018, the National Council of Applied Research (NCAER) put Tamil Nadu in the second place in the list of States with potential to attract investments.

In the past, foreign direct investment in Tamil Nadu was of the order of Rs.1,33,000 crore. In the last 3 years, it has risen to Rs.1,80,000 crore. That is, I am proud to point out that Hon'ble Amma's Government has additionally attracted about Rs 47,000 crore as Foreign Direct Investment.

Hon'ble Speaker Sir,

Namakkal Kavignar said: "Learn a skill; be free from worries". In tune with this, Hon'ble Amma's Government is giving importance to short and long-term training for skill development so as to create skilled human resources in the State. The opening of 28 new Government industrial training institutes in the last 8 years and starting of 53 new industrial courses in the existing Government ITIs is proof of this.

The Tamil Nadu Skill Development Corporation has so far trained about 7 lakh youth, jointly with Government and recognized private training institutes in different fields. It is noteworthy that 5 of the 10 best Government ITIs in India, are in Tamil Nadu. Recently an MoU was signed for the setting up of 3 high powered training centres for health, automobile and goods movement management and transport, a first. These centres will function in the public, private participation mode. Meanwhile, Tamil Nadu has been selected as the premier state in the national competition for skills, conducted by the Central Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship.

Hon'ble Speaker Sir,

In line with the song "*Oru Thaai makkal naam enbom; ondre engal kulam enbom*" ('let us declare we are siblings born of the same Mother; Let us declare that we belong to one family') and on the basis that the welfare of all communities should be fostered, Hon'ble Amma's Government enacted a new law - the Vanniyakula Kshatriya Public Trusts and Endowments (Protection and Management) Act 2018 - for the development of the Vanniyar community in Tamil Nadu. For the effective implementation of this Act, a Board was set up and enough funds have also been allotted.

Hon'ble Amma's Government has issued a suitable order to help various de-notified communities inclusive of Piramalai Kallar, to benefit both under the Central Government's OBC (other backward classes) quota and Tamil Nadu Governments MBC (most backward classes) and de-notified community quota in education and job opportunities. Through this, their long standing demand has been fulfilled.

In the last two-and-a-half years, Hon'ble Amma's Government has taken up works, after allocating Rs.300 crore, for providing basic facilities like laying link roads, street lights, pathways and drinking water in each and every Adi Dravidar and Scheduled Tribe residential area.

Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivar M.G.R and Hon'ble Idaya Deivam Puratchi Thalaivi Amma were steadfast guardians of minorities and this Government that treads the path chalked out by them, will remain a fortress to safeguard the people of minority communities. This Government will ever be firm in defending them.

Even though the Central Government has stopped subsidy to Haj pilgrimage, Hon'ble Amma's Government allots Rs. 6 crore every year and continues to provide it. The administrative subsidy to the Haj committee has been increased from Rs.30 lakh to Rs.50 lakh; the Government subsidy to Wakf Board has been increased from Rs.2 crore to Rs.2.5 crore per year; 5,145 metric tonnes of rice have been supplied to more than 3,000 mosques for the preparation of '*Nonbu*' porridge; for the Nagore Dargah '*Santhana Koodu*' festival, Government itself supplies the needed sandal billets every year; a honorarium of Rs.20,000 is given to District Kazis; the monthly pension to Ulemas has been increased to Rs.1,500; a corpus of Rs.3 crore has been created for undertaking repair and renovation works in mosques, dargahs and Wakf

institutions; education, individual and minor loans to the extent of Rs.215.22 crore have been disbursed through the Tamil Nadu Minorities Economic Development Corporation at low rates of interest in the period of 2011 to 2018 for their economic development.

Hon'ble Speaker Sir,

Hon'ble Amma's Government has banned the use of 'one time' plastic articles and is implementing it. I affectionately request all to follow this practice fully so that the future generation is not affected by plastic. People should extend their full co-operation to this.

A large number of people visit the Arignar Anna Zoological Park at Vandalur and enjoy the experience; I myself have visited this park three times. Required funds will be allotted to improve the infrastructure facilities in this Park to international standards.

Hon'ble Speaker Sir,

With the goal of attaining sustainable stable growth, the Tamil Nadu Government is providing enough incentives for the production of environment friendly electric buses, electric cars and autos, for investments in them and for their usage by people. In line with this policy, as a first in Tamil Nadu's history, I inaugurated on August 28th the induction of electric buses for public transport. Likewise, I released the Electric Vehicle Policy 2019 on 16.09.2019.

I also inaugurated on November 29, the environment friendly electric auto service. I am proud to say to this House that these have come into effect on the basis of agreements made in Dubai when I went there on an official visit.

Hon'ble Deputy Speaker Sir,

Tamil Nadu and Kerala States have many issues like Mullai Periyar, Azhiyar-Parambikulam, Pandiar-Punnampuzha, Shenbagavalli Dam and Neyyaru. I wrote a letter to Kerala Chief Minister – "We need water for our people, for our crop cultivation". "Come in person; we will discuss about it" was the invitation I got from Hon'ble Chief Minister of Kerala. Accepting the invite, I met the Kerala Chief Minister along with the Hon'ble Minister for Local Administration and the Hon'ble Deputy Speaker of the Assembly. In continuation of this, a meeting was held at the Secretaries-level. Such interactions at various levels are to be held in future. I wish to inform this House that through such discussions, the water disputes between the two states will be resolved.

Likewise, when a severe drought overtook the State last summer, Hon'ble Ministers, on my direction, met the Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister and requested the release of Tamil Nadu's share of water in the Telugu Ganga scheme. With the water obtained on that basis, the drinking water needs of Greater Chennai people are being met. On this occasion, I convey my heart-felt gratitude to the Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh.

For augmenting the water resources of Tamil Nadu, I have urged Hon'ble Prime Minister, through letters and in person, to convene a meeting of the Chief Ministers of Andhra and Telangana and get their approval expeditiously for the draft report, prepared

by the Central Government for the Godavari-Cauvery Link Scheme.

As a part of this, steps are being taken to execute the first stage works of the Cauvery-Gundaru scheme for creating water resources to dry areas in Tamil Nadu and do away with the agony of farmers there. I wish to inform the happy news to this House that this scheme will be started in the coming financial year with state funds in the expectation of Central Government's assistance.

Hon'ble Amma's Government is taking steps to implement, with Central Government's assistance, the '*Nadanthai Vazhi Cauvery*' scheme for removing pollutants and purifying Cauvery river.

Works on the Athikadavu-Avinashi canal scheme have already been started at a cost of Rs.1,652 crore for providing irrigation facility to the parched areas of the Districts of Coimbatore, Tiruppur and Erode and to the areas where ground water is less.

Implementation of the linking of Tamirabarani-Karumeni river-Nambiyaru to provide irrigation facility to about 57,000 acres in the Districts of Tirunelveli and Thoothukudi, is in different stages of progress. I am happy to inform this House that land acquisition for this scheme has been expedited and it will be completed shortly.

Hon'ble Amma and Hon'ble Amma's Government found a solution to the Cauvery river water and Mullai Periyar Dam disputes. Now, to establish the rights of Thenpennaiyar basin farmers, Hon'ble Amma's Government filed an interim petition in the Supreme Court on 03.07.2019. Consultations are going on with legal experts for urging the Central Government to constitute a Tribunal, as directed by the Supreme Court, to resolve the issue and for taking follow up action in the apex court. As has been done in the disputes on Cauvery and Mullai Periyar, Hon'ble Amma's Government will find a solution to this problem also.

Hon'ble Deputy Speaker Sir,

A wonderful scheme – Amma Sports Scheme for Youth – is to be launched shortly in the 12,524 Panchayats and 528 Town Panchayats in Tamil Nadu. An allotment of Rs.76.23 crore has been made for this.

As per this scheme, sports teams will be formed in the Panchayats and Town Panchayats and works like setting up fields/courts for games like volleyball, kabaddi, cricket, badminton etc., procuring sports materials, locating open air gyms, will be taken up.

Hon'ble Deputy Speaker Sir,

In future, a Government that provides service to the people through technology and e-governance alone can be a good Government. Tamil Nadu is in the forefront in every aspect of governance, in the utilization of information and information technology and in consumption. In this connection, the advance efforts put in by every Department and agency of the Tamil Nadu Government, have given good results. Investments have come in on a large scale. As a proof for this, Niti Aayog has placed Tamil Nadu, in its report, in the second place in the list of most innovative States.

With a software export of Rs.1,20,899 crore and creation of about 6.60 lakh job opportunities, Tamil Nadu is one of the states in the forefront in software export and in creation of jobs.

I am happy to inform that all the Panchayats in Tamil Nadu propose to implement the BharatNet scheme at a cost of Rs.1,815 crore to carry out the policy of providing Net connection to every home for realizing the aspiration of 'Development for All' and making available all Government services to villagers also. Through this scheme, all the 12,524 village Panchayats will be connected through optic fibre network, enabling Net facility of not less than 1 Gbps to all villages. Along with it, high speed Internet facility is to be extended to all urban areas in the state at a cost of Rs.500 crore through Tamil Nadu Government's TamilNet scheme. These schemes are proposed to be completed within a year.

Hon'ble Deputy Speaker Sir,

Hon'ble Amma's Government has released new syllalbi for classes up to 12th standard, realizing fully well that education should not be merely academic but promote original thinking. By allotting a maximum of Rs.28,957.62 crore to the Department of school education for the current financial year, Amma's Government has set a record.

For the betterment of the education sector, 43,587 teachers have been appointed in the last 8 years. All the vacant teacher posts are filled up speedily. Two hundred and forty-eight new elementary schools have been started; it is Amma's Government that has upgraded 117 primary schools into middle-level schools, 1,079 middle level schools into high schools and 604 high schools into higher secondary schools. As a pinnacle of these achievements, I recently launched the Education TV channel to telecast important lessons so that they can be learnt easily, to take the plans of School Education Department to the people and to create awareness among students in regard to public examinations, scholarship examinations and entrance examinations. I am proud to state the channel is a hit with the general public and students with its 24 hour telecast of events useful to students.

Hon'ble Deputy Speaker Sir,

"My aim is to facilitate college education for more than 50 per cent of people," said Hon'ble Amma, and started 65 colleges in Tamil Nadu. This Government that has come in the footsteps of Hon'ble Amma, also started 12 Government Arts and Science Colleges and 5 polytechnic colleges. As a result of this, the percentage of students enrolling for higher education increased to 49 and I am proud to say that Tamil Nadu has become the premier State in the whole of India in higher education enrolment.

Hon'ble Deputy Speaker Sir,

There were 7 Law Colleges in the State before Hon'ble Amma's Government took over the administration. Now, the number has gone up to 14. Besides these, there is a National Law School in Tiruchirapalli, started by Hon'ble Amma.

Accepting the recommendation of the High Court, Hon'ble Amma's Government has

issued G.O. for opening 227 new courts and works are under way in this regard. Besides, orders have been issued to set up 16 POCSO courts to get quick justice in cases of atrocities against women and sexual abuse of children. At present, 3 such courts are functioning and I wish to state that the remaining 13 POCSO courts too will start functioning shortly.

Hon'ble Deputy Speaker,

An archaeological exhibition has been set up in the World Tamil Sangam complex at Madurai to display the objects excavated by the Tamil Nadu Archaeological Department at Keezhadi, the place that declares to the world Tamil antiquity. I am proud to state, here, that Hon'ble Amma's Government has issued orders for setting up a world class new museum at Konthagai Village in Sivagangai District at a cost of Rs.12.21 crore for the permanent display of these archaeological findings.

I am happy to inform that Hon'ble Amma's Government has given Rs. One crore for setting up a Chair for Tamil in the Houston University, USA, as it has done, earlier, in the Harvard University with a fund of Rs.10 crore.

Hon'ble Deputy Speaker Sir,

Bharat Ratna Puratchi Thalaivar M.G.R. had transcended time, transformed into an epic, he was an annihilator of sorrow and a feast to our eyes. His centenary was celebrated in a grand manner all over the State. In continuation of it, his Centenary Arch on Kamarajar Salai, was declared open by me on 27.02.2019, adding glory to Ponmana Chemmal Puratchi Thalaivar M.G.R.

Puratchi Thalaivar sang: "*Pirandha Naade Sirandha Kovil; Pesum Mozhiye Deivam; idhai Marandhidamal Vaazhndhu Vanthaal, Gopuramaagum Kollgai*" ('One's own country is the best temple; Mother tongue is God; If one lives with this in mind, one's faith attains the peak). In tune with the sentiments of this song, Hon'ble Amma's Government has become a model in remembering thyagis who served the Tamil language and Tamil Nadu and in honouring them. In the last 3 years alone, erstwhile leaders have been honoured by opening 7 'manimandapams' for them; also, Hon'ble Amma's Government has honoured Thiru.Ramasamy Padayatchiar, freedom fighter and protector of social justice, by declaring open his portrait in this very Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly.

Hon'ble Deputy Speaker Sir,

I am happy to say, here, that in the last 9 years, Rs.75,268.72 crore has been allotted for the Department of Health and Family Welfare. The reduction in the infant mortality rate in Tamil Nadu from 17 to 16 last year and the realization, even now, of long-term, sustainable targets in maternal mortality during child birth to be attained in 2030, is a historic achievement.

Hon'ble Deputy Speaker Sir,

Hon'ble Amma's Government has another historic achievement to its credit this year. Central Government's approval has been obtained for starting, in this year alone, 9 new Government medical colleges in Tamil Nadu. The only Government that has got 9 medical colleges in a year, is Hon'ble Amma's

Government. Through this, it is Hon'ble Amma's Government that has created opportunity for 900 more persons to study medicine. I also wish to point out that steps are being taken to get Central Government's approval for setting up new Government medical college hospitals at Ariyalur, Cuddalore, Kallakurichi and Kancheepuram Districts.

I am proud to say that the Medical Services Recruitment Board, set up by Hon'ble Amma has so far filled up 32,660 vacancies.

Tamil Nadu Government has bagged Central Government awards continuously for the last 5 years for best performance in organ transplantation, this being yet another achievement of Amma's Government.

Doctors have strongly urged their demands at different points of time. I wish to inform in this House that Hon'ble Amma's Government will carefully and compassionately consider their demands.

Hon'ble Deputy Speaker Sir,

Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma had stated: "My aim is that every house, village, industry/commercial establishment in Tamil Nadu should get steady and uninterrupted quality electric power".

As a result of the tireless efforts put in by Hon'ble Amma, Tamil Nadu has already attained a state of uninterrupted power supply to all, through implementation of different schemes, commissioning of new power plants, procurement of electricity under medium and long-term agreements and tapping renewable energy, adding power to the Grid. In the last 3 years alone, about 2,600 MW of electricity has been added to the Grid.

Tamil Nadu is one of the States in India where solar energy is available in plenty. To increase solar energy production, the 'Solar Energy Policy 2019' was declared. As per this policy, a target of generating about 9,000 MW of electricity through installation of solar electricity generation plants has been fixed.

As Tamil Nadu continues to be a power surplus state and provides uninterrupted quality electricity, new industrial entrepreneurs are coming to the State. Not only that – I am proud to inform this House that the peak hour power demand of summer last year was met without any power cut.

Hon'ble Speaker Sir,

A Government's prime duty is to maintain law and order and protect the people. Hon'ble Puratchi Thalivi Amma said: "The capacity to understand the important problems of people, their sentiments and legitimate expectations, alone, establishes law and order in a country". Hon'ble Amma's Government functions as per her motto "Peace, Prosperity, and Progress".

Recently, there was a meeting between Hon'ble Prime Minister of India Thiru. Narendra Modi and the Hon'ble President of the People Republic of China Thiru. Xi Jinping at Mamallapuram. I wish to particularly mention the encomiums showered on the Police Department over the security arrangements made for this event by the Hon'ble Prime

Minister and Hon'ble President of the People Republic of China and his officials.

As I have announced in this House, the Fourth Police Commission has been set up for examining the reforms to be taken up and submitting its report to Government for bringing in greater efficiency in Police Department's functioning so that it keeps its premier place at the national level.

Installation of CCTV cameras with Internet connection, in Police Stations and public places, is going on in full swing throughout Tamil Nadu to prevent crimes in public places, to know the modus operandi of criminals while they engage in crimes, to enable their arrest and to ensure transparency in Police Stations. In Chennai alone about 2.50 lakh cameras and in the State, including of Chennai, 4.40 lakh CCTV cameras have been installed. Besides reducing the incidence of crimes to a great extent, this scheme has greatly helped in identifying criminals and taking follow up action.

'Amma patrol vehicles' for the safety of girl children and women and '*Kavalan*' app and a Whatsapp number for lodging complaints easily have been launched in Greater Chennai. Awareness has been created about the '*Kavalan*' app and now, I am proud to state, lakhs of women have downloaded the app, extending a great welcome to it.

Compared to other States at the national level, crime against women and children, according to a National Crime Study report, is far less in Tamil Nadu.

The All Women Police Station at Theni in Tamil Nadu has been adjudged as the fourth best Police Station at the All-India level. 'India Today' the popular English magazine has selected Tamil Nadu for the second time as the best state in law and order maintenance in 2018-2019 and presented an award. I also wish to point out here that Tamil Nadu continues to be a peaceful state without caste and communal clashes and with the illegal activities of extremists and naxals greatly curbed.

Hon'ble Speaker Sir,

The whole world is moving towards Mamallapuram after the meeting between Hon'ble Prime Minister of India and Hon'ble President of the People Republic of China there. For improving the infrastructure facilities and modernizing the existing facilities at Mamallapuram for meeting the needs of tourists, an exclusive proposal will be prepared and a scheme will be implemented with Central Government's financial assistance.

Hon'ble Speaker sir,

From 2011 to 2017-2018, Rs.61,675 crore bank loan has been given to women self help groups, set up for women's welfare. Against a target of Rs.11,000 crore bank loan for 2,95,612 Members of women SHGs for the year 2018-19, Rs.11,449 crore – in excess of the target - was disbursed and the credit goes to Hon'ble Amma's Government. For 2019-2020 financial year, a target of Rs.12,500 crore has been fixed and I am proud to inform this House, that so far Rs.9,045.88 crore has been given as loan assistance to 2,16,965 Members of SHGs.

Hon'ble Speaker Sir,

Hon'ble Amma's Government is

implementing 5 types of marriage assistance schemes. Under the gold for '*thali*' scheme, Rs.726.32 crore was allotted and so far 838.36 kg gold has been given to 4,795 beneficiaries. An assistance of Rs.415.21 crore has also been given under the marriage scheme. The Central Government has given the '*Nari Shakti Puraskar*' award to Tamil Nadu for improving the child sex ratio at birth. For the best performance in the protection of senior citizens' welfare, the Vayoshrestha Samman award was also given by the Hon'ble President of India. For the best implementation of Prime Minister National Nutrition Mission scheme (Poshan Abhiyan) that aims at improving the nutritional status of children below 6 years, pregnant women and lactating mothers, Tamil Nadu got the national award this year.

Hon'ble Speaker Sir,

For enhancing the livelihood of the differently abled persons, Hon'ble Amma's Government is implementing many welfare schemes. A four per cent reservation has been given to them in appointment and so far, 1,483 persons have been appointed after identifying suitable posts for them.

Hon'ble Speaker Sir,

Following the directive that District Collectors and District Ministers should visit villages, receive grievance petitions and resolve them, 9,77,265 petitions were received from all over Tamil Nadu through the Chief Minister's Special Grievance Redressal Scheme. Of them, solutions were found for eligible 5,18,946 petitions; appropriate action is being taken in respect of 6,152 petitions; District Collectors have been directed to re- examine the rejected petitions. Among the resolved grievances, petitions that pertained to old age pension under social security scheme, alone numbered 1,54,888.

Most of the MLAs demanded grant of a monthly pension of Rs 1,000 to old people who are unable to work. On the basis of that demand, an announcement was made that pension would be granted to 5 lakh senior citizens. It is Amma's Government that has made all District Collectors and all Ministers visit and receive petitions from such old people, and examine and grant pension to eligible persons. So far, 1,54,888 persons have benefited. I am happy to inform through the Hon'ble Speaker, that Government will take steps to distribute old age pension to the remaining nearly 3 lakh persons.

Hon'ble Speaker Sir,

To remove such inadequacy, an order was issued for the grant of old age pension to 5 lakh senior citizens; on that basis Collectors and Hon'ble District Ministers collected petitions directly and rectifications are being made. Through Hon'ble Speaker I wish to tell Hon'ble Leader of the Opposition that if a list of eligible persons for the grant of old-age pension is made, the pension will certainly be given to them. After considering all these, I have issued the order that additionally 5 lakh senior citizens will be given a monthly pension of Rs.1,000 each. The pension has been given for 1,54,888 persons. As I have stated, more than 9 lakhs petitions were received. The pension

is to be given to nearly 3 lakh people. Hon'ble Leader of the Opposition need not think of this as a defect. Just as you wish to serve the people, I made this announcement with the same intention.

Hon'ble Speaker Sir,

A G.O. has also been issued for that. Funds also have been allotted. Only one-and-a-half lakh people have benefited. The remaining three-and-a-half lakh persons are to be given. There was a ceiling on the value of property - Rs. 50,000 – an old person can posses for eligibility to the grant of pension. We have hiked that also to Rs.One lakh. We have issued orders that direct submission of petitions by the likely beneficiary should also be honoured. This is an issue of helping old persons. There is no politics in it. We have started this scheme with a view to help old persons who are unable to work. There is no discrimination at all; nor any distinction between ruling and opposition parties. Old persons are common people. This scheme has been announced to serve each and every old person unable to work. The Government keeps in mind everything you have stated. When you come to the next meeting – you already stated yesterday that you will not praise (us); Hon'ble Deputy Leader of Opposition has already stated that they will only oppose – still, I request you to praise this scheme at least.

To make available Government services to people speedily, Hon'ble Amma's Government has created 5 new Districts and it is a historic achievement. New District administrative heads have been appointed and the new Districts have been brought into operation in one sweep. I am happy to inform this House that works for creation of all infrastructure facilities for these new Districts are being carried out speedily.

Hon'ble Speaker Sir,

The successful implementation of the Goods and Services Tax has made Tamil Nadu one of the states receiving the least compensation from the Central Government.

Hon'ble Amma's Government is taking steps to bring to the attention of the GST Council the various demands received from the commercial and industrial establishments of Tamil Nadu to get tax exemption/reduction. This has resulted in the reduction of price of many goods, a continuing benefit to people. Steps are being undertaken repeatedly to get tax exemption/ reduction for some more goods and services.

Hon'ble Speaker Sir,

Apart from devising ways for easy maintenance of attendance register for Government Servants through the integrated finance and human welfare development plan, arrangement for recording in real time basis information like salary chart, promotion and transfers, has been made. Not only that, Hon'ble Amma's Government which is interested in the welfare of its staff, is immediately providing the dearness allowance increase to State Government employees, as and when it is announced by the Central Government.

Hon'ble speaker Sir,

To create a slum-free Tamil Nadu, the Tamil Nadu Slum Clearance Board is

implementing many housing schemes and community development works. In the last 8 years, 1.92 lakh apartments and houses have been constructed at a cost of Rs.8,222.91 crore.

Hon'ble Speaker Sir,

Under the Smart City scheme, Pondy Bazar area in Thyagaraya Nagar, Chennai has been provided with wide pavements, wi-fi facility, CCTV cameras, smart bikes and sports tools for children at a cost of about Rs.40 crore. These have been thrown open for public use. All sections of people – senior citizens, women, children and youth – have welcomed the new facilities.

Tamil Nadu is the only State in the whole country to get the Central Government's approval for implementing its 'smart city' scheme in the maximum number of 11 cities. Under this scheme, 413 works, costing Rs.11,000 crore have been taken up; 72 of them have been completed and works are on in the case of 206.

Hon'ble Speaker Sir,

Works, to be executed through the Department of Highways at a cost of Rs.6,664 crore in 2019-2020 financial year, have been approved. They pertain to laying 9,211 km length of roads, road safety works numbering 2,582, setting up of storm water drainage and supportive wall. Moreover, road works to a length of 5,451 km and construction of 65 river bridges, a road over-bridge, and 4 railway over-bridges have been completed and put to public use. Road works to a length of 10,565 km and construction of 328 river bridges, 19 flyovers, 42 railway overbridges and 2 foot overbridges are being carried out.

Hon'ble Speaker Sir,

Of the 453 announcements made under Rule 110 in the Assembly in the 3 years of 2017-2018 to 2019-2020, G.Os have been issued for 419. Of these, schemes for 118 announcements have been executed fully; in respect of 301 announcements, scheme works are mostly in the final stages; preparatory works for scheme works in respect of 25 announcements are being undertaken; 8 are under the consideration of Central Government and one is pending in court.

I wish to inform the House that from Hon'ble Amma Government's assumption of office till date, I have inaugurated 47,829 works valued at Rs.34,893.46 crore; I have also laid the foundation stone for 7,909 works valued at Rs.24,090.88 crore.

Hon'ble Speaker Sir,

Hon'ble Leader of the Opposition quoted a verse from Naaladiyaar yesterday. I wish to quote one from *Nannool*. It says that there is nothing wrong if one praises oneself in front of a person who does not know one's talent, to win a debate in a forum and when the opponent slanders one. ("*Mannudai mandrathu olai thookkinum, thannudai aatral unaraar idaiyilum, manniya avaiyidai velluru pozhuthinum, thannai maruthalai pazhitha kaalaiyum, thannai pugazhdhalum thagum pulavorkke*"). Still, we have not mentioned anything in the Governor's Address, eulogizing ourselves. On the contrary, we have mentioned about this Government's policies, schemes,

achievements and the awards received for those achievements. This is an honour to Tamil Nadu and to Tamils.

In all regimes, at the beginning of every year, Government's policies and programmes are hinted at in Governor's Address. This is what you did and we are doing the same.

Hon'ble Speaker Sir,

"There is nothing to fear about now; there is nothing to fear in the future too. Whenever sorrows and sadnesses beset the path, it is through the radiant faces of kindred folk like you that I have been triumphant…," said Hon'ble Amma, and winning the general elections for the second successive time, formed the Government.

Though Hon'ble Idaya Deivam Puratchi Thalaivi Amma is no more with us, we, who are running the Government with her blessings, are commoners only. I have not occupied this seat as an heir of a Chief Minister or one from a family with a political background. Hon'ble deputy leader of the Opposition is also like that. Hailing from a family of farmers, I run the administration on the path shown by Hon'ble Amma, bringing together her cadres and pondering in many ways about the welfare of the people. Through this, Tamil Nadu continues its royal stride on the path of growth. As a result of this, the Central Government, different private research institutions and frontline media establishments continue to declare after due research that Tamil Nadu has developed in many sectors and is in the forefront in the whole of India.

Tamil Nadu's economic development in 2018-2019 was 8.17 per cent. This is higher than the national growth rate of 6.81, praised an English daily.

Though Hon'ble Amma's Government has received ever so many awards like these, I am extremely happy to say that Tamil Nadu has come first in the Good Governance index of the Central Government for the year 2019 and thus set a record. The conclusion has been arrived at after evaluating the State against 50 indices of good governance in 10 Departments inclusive of agriculture, industry, human resources development, health, infrastructure facilities and social welfare schemes.

I also concede in this House that all these things have happened due to Hon'ble Amma's blessings, Hon'ble Ministers, Members of the Legislative Assembly, officers of the bureaucracy, the true cadres of the party, our administrative efficiency and people's co-operation.

These are all victory garlands for Hon'ble Amma's rule. Unable to tolerate all this, some opposition parties were fixing the duration of this regime as 10 days and 100 days. As a smashing response to their designs, awards to Tamil Nadu are multiplying from one to ten, ten to hundred and today it is raining all over the State!

Some people are intent on staging agitations by diverting people's attention in all issues whether it be natural disaster, drinking water shortage or local bodies election, on filing cases in courts and acting as speedbreakers to Government's progress instead of being

co-operative in a constructive manner when developmental works take place

"Have a brave heart that can withstand anything" said Perarignar Anna. We have his figure imprinted in All India Anna DMK's flag. Likewise, our Movement is functioning here in his name. That is why our Movement remains in the premier place in people's service. I wish to say at this hour that our Movement is transforming Perarignar Anna's dreams into reality.

"So, overcoming all adversities, let us grandly walk towards the future that is as bright as beaten gold",said Hon'ble Amma. As per Hon'ble Amma's prophecy, this Government is scoring victories one after another and is decked with the garlands of victories.

Our very big victory at Vikravandi and Nanguneri in the recently held Assembly elections has made it clear that people are with us. This has been confirmed by the support given by the Tamil Nadu people to us in the Local Bodies election. I convey my heart-felt gratitude to voters who made us victorious in the Vikrvandi and Nanguneri by-elections and all those in the 27 Districts who voted for us in the local bodies election. Like this, the party will also win in the local bodies election that are to come as also in the 2021 general election for the Assembly for the 3rd consecutive term, getting rid of those who pose threat to the party and to this Government as Perarignar Anna said, of weeds that grow in the crevices of walls, will be pluched off with the support of the people''.

Hon'ble Speaker Sir,

For the last two days, Members of the opposition parties have been arguing about NRC for long. Hon'ble Minister for Revenue has very clearly and firmly explained in detail that the minorities living in Tamil Nadu will not be affected in any way.

Ponmana Chemmal Puratchi Thalaivar M.G.R., Hon'ble Idaya Deivam Puratchi Thalaivi Amma and Hon'ble Amma's Government after Hon'ble Amma's demise have been protecting minority community people as a shield for more than 30 years continuously. On the lines of these two great leaders, Hon'ble Amma's Government also, I assure you, will remain as a fortress to protect the minorities. Hence, I stoutly assert that the rumours spread falsely with a political motive should not be given any credence and that the minority community people need not doubt or fear even an iota.

Hon'ble Speaker Sir,

''A good person's ideals are certain to win – this is the truth". I believe I have given the appropriate reply to Hon'ble Members' view points. If any of their demands have not been mentioned, Government will keep those in mind too and take appropriate steps. Conveying my New Year and Pongal greetings to Hon'ble Speaker, Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister, Hon'ble Ministers, Hon'ble Deputy Leader of the Opposition, Leaders of different Parties, to all Members of the Legislature and the people of Tamil Nadu, I conclude my speech, requesting Members to unanimously pass this motion of thanks to Hon'ble Governor's Address.

Nandri! Vanakkam! ■

Hon'ble Chief Minister inaugurates 46th India Tourist and Industrial Fair

Tamil Nadu Government 'taking all steps' to keep State ahead in tourist footfall

Speech of the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, **Thiru. Edappadi K.Palaniswami**, at the inauguration of 46th India Tourist and Industrial Fair in Chennai on 22.12.2019 *(English Translation)*.

I bow to Goddess Hon'ble Idaya Deivam Puratchi Thalaivi Amma.

I am extremely happy to inaugurate the 46th India Tourist and Industrial Fair at the Island Grounds, Chennai.

Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister, the honoured and respected Thiru. O.Panneerselvam, who delivered the presidential address in this pleasant function, Hon'ble Minister for Fisheries, Personnel and Administrative Reforms Thiru. D.Jayakumar, Hon'ble Minister for Tourism Respected Thiru. Vellamandi Natarajan who has delivered the Special address, Hon'ble Minister for Rural Industries Thiru.Benjamin, Chief Secretary to Government Respected Thiru.K.Shanmugam who welcomed the gathering, Member of Legislative Assembly Thiru. Sathya, Respected Member of Legislative Assembly and former

DGP Thiru. Nataraj, former Members of Parliament, Respected Thiru. Venkatesh Babu, former Member of Parliament and Board President Thiru. Balaganga, Respected Thiru.Rajesh, Additional Chief Secretary to the Department of Tourism, Culture and Charitable Endowments Thiru.Ashok Dongre who delivered an explanatory address on Schemes, former Ministers, former MPs and MLAs, Executives of Co-operative Societies, Commissioner of Police, Chennai City, High officials of the Police Department, Government staff of the Department of Tourism Department, Managing Director of Tamil Nadu Tourism Development Corporation Tmt.Amudhavalli who is to propose a vote of thanks, Artistes Groups, Newspaper and Media friends, Elders, Ladies and Tourists – at the outset I convey my respects to all of you. I am happy to meet you all in this pleasant event.

Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma stated: "A river that originates in a mountain, has no use for anyone if it flows through unproductive terrain and drains into the sea. Crops will flourish if the river water is stored in dams and diverted to fields through canals." Exhibitions such as these are tools to disseminate to people information regarding Government schemes, social welfare measures and Government's achievements and they are as important as storing water in dams for the growth of crops.

The thought of the Pongal festival at once brings to mind the India Tourist and Industrial Fair, held usually at the Island Grounds in Chennai. An additional speciality this year is that it has been inaugurated before Christmas itself.

The Tamil Nadu Tourism Development Corporation has been successfully conducting the India Tourist and Industrial Fair from the year 1974. The 46th Fair starts pleasantly today. The Fair's theme this year is: "Tourism and jobs, a better future for all!". Twenty-eight Departments of the State Government, 14 public sector units of the State, a Central Government establishment, 4 establishments from other States, the Tamil Nadu State Legal Services Authority and 110 private organisations have put up their pavilions in this Fair.

The exhibits in Government sector pavilions are designed to enable people to easily understand and benefit from the Government's constructive measures and the schemes being implemented for their welfare. Recreational features for children and grown ups are also there. Special features like Snow world, Marine Fish Museum and Laser show exhibition also find a place in the exhibition.

The English word 'Tour' derives from the Latin word 'TORNOS' which means a wheel – connoting 'going round'. Hence, the word 'tour' means visiting many places and returning to one's own place.

Tourism which was once the preserve solely of the rich, has today become one of the common needs of people all over the world. People want to see things that are wonderful, inspiring and attractive and also natural scenery. The desire to see places other than one's own is the basis for the birth of tourism. People desire to go on tours for spending their leisure time pleasantly and usefully. People's better standard of living, development in transportation, quality roads and speedy communication facilities have turned tourism into an important industry.

In today's world, tourism is a profitable industry. Besides benefiting individuals, it paves the way for the country's development in many fields through economic development created by increased revenues.

In countries like India where unity in diversity is cherished, tourists are able to interact with people of different States and find enjoyment in it. The country's unity is strengthened when people in one part visit other parts of the country. When we visit other countries or when foreigners visit our country, a feeling that we are all citizens of the world, as poet Kaniyan Poongundranar stated – '*Yadhum oore yavarum kelir*' - wells up in our hearts.

Tamil Nadu is at the forefront in attracting tourists as Hon'ble Amma's Government

is implementing many schemes to improve the infrastructure facilities in tourist centres, keeping in mind the increasing tourist arrivals to the State, and to create basic facilities in new centres after identifying them. This pushes up the number of inland and foreign tourists visiting Tamil Nadu every year.

Tamil Nadu has wonderful sculptural treasures and vibrant traditional music, dance, folk arts and fine arts.

Tourists from other Countries and States keep coming to Tamil Nadu to enjoy the annual music festival, see Natyanjali and other heroic sports, get high class medical treatment and study in higher educational institutions.

Besides these, spiritual and recreational centres abound in Tamil Nadu. To make particular mention, tourist places like Udhagamandalam and Kodaikkanal, the Marina Beach in Chennai, the second longest beach in the world, the confluence of three seas at Kanniyakumari, Mamallapuram, the best in sculpture, more than 40,000 temples dotting the entire Tamil Nadu and places of worship for every religion, attract tourists to Tamil Nadu. The UNESCO announced World Heritage Monuments – Mamallapuram, Thanjavur Big temple, Darasuram temple, Gangaikondacholapuram temple and the Nilgiris Mountain railway are all in Tamil Nadu.

Tamil Nadu occupied the first place in the arrivals of inland and foreign tourists in the whole of India in the years 2014, 2015, 2016 and 2017. In 2018, 39 crore inland tourists and 61 lakh foreign tourists – totally about 40 crore – visited Tamil Nadu. The ever increasing number of tourists to Tamil Nadu, year after year ensures that the State has the most number of most sought after tourists spots. I wish to mention a few of the achievements of Hon'ble Amma's Government in the field of tourism.

- The Tamil Nadu Tourism Development Corporation has 53 tourist hostels and 14 luxury coaches
- For the convenience of tourists visiting Tamil Nadu, Rs.6.28 crore was spent in 2018-2019 to improve infrastructure and basic facilities in important tourist centres and Rs.10.64 crore on road improvement works. The Corporation has taken up this year various works valued at Rs.20.94 crore inclusive of purchase of 2 Volvo buses.
- For tourism development, works costing Rs.16.47 crore and Rs.5.60 crore are being carried out at Kancheepuram and Velankanni respectively.
- To develop important water sports centres, various works like land levelling in beach areas, lighting facility, rest rooms, wayside amenities and monitoring towers are being carried out at a cost of Rs.99.91 crore.
- Under the Development of Tourism Infrastructure Capital Scheme - Part 4, many works valued at Rs.288 crore have been started with financial assistance from Asia Development Bank. The works include setting up powerful electric lights and illuminated display boards, construction of tourist hostel at Chidambaram, Alangudi and Vedaranyam, construction of 'Yatri Nivas' at Kancheepuram and acquiring boats to ferry tourists to Vivekananda Memorial at Kanniyakumari. All these works are at various stages of progress to be completed by the year 2020.

- As per the direction of Hon'ble Amma, a 'Dance Festival of India' event is held every year from 1992 at Mamallapuram in December-January months. Tourists in large numbers from other parts of India and from foreign countries come to attend the event.
- The meeting between Hon'ble President of People of Republic of China and Hon'ble Prime Minister of India at Mamallapuram, known for its sculptures and cave temples was a historic event. Following that Meet, tourist arrivals at Mamallapuram have increased. By way of meeting the needs of tourists, schemes will be implemented to improve the infrastructure facilities and modernize the existing ones with Central Government's assistance. I am happy to announce that the Union Government also gave its approval recently.
- At the inaugural function of the new Chengalpattu District on 29.11.2019, I flagged off the Mamallapuram tourist coach service. The speciality of this service is that tourists can see and appreciate historic monuments inclusive of the Shore Temple, five rathas, Arjuna's penance, rock sculptures, a museum of statues, light house and Tiger cave in a short duration through travel by an air-conditioned coach for a fee of Rs.50.

I am proud to state through this event that the Tourism Development Corporation has recorded many achievements like these. As a result of this, the Pacific Area Travel Writers Association conferred the international award 'Best Heritage Tourism State' on Tamil Nadu. The 'India Today' Board selected Tamil Nadu in 2018 as the 'Best Efficient State in Tourism' and presented an award.

In the agriculture sector, Tamil Nadu has got the 'Krishi Karman' award for the fifth time. With 99 Central Government awards in the sector of local bodies' administration, Hon'ble Amma's Government has set a record. For the fifth time in a row, Tamil Nadu got the Central Government award in Organ Transplant Surgery. 'India Today' magazine has given an award for law and order maintenance. In this way, Hon'ble Amma's Government has got the status as the State where every Department has bagged awards for best performance. I am proud to mention through this event that Tamil Nadu's status has risen, at the national level, to a level that all people have come to consider as a premier State that goes on winning awards.

Though many applaud Hon'ble Amma Government's achievements, some, without the heart to accept it, are trying to place hurdles in the path of our victorious march. They consider themselves as the most talented in the world. I wish to expose their talent through a story.

A group of people in a country who considered themselves as more capable than others, decided to build a house. For the timber needs of the proposed house, they decided to go into the forest and select a tree. The one who was considered most capable among them, went ahead of the rest of the persons in a horse-driven cart, asking the others to follow him. On his journey, the cart hit a stone and over-turned. He too fell into a pit and the axe in his hand fell a distance away.

The group that followed him saw the axe lying on the ground. They thought there should

be some reason for the person who went ahead to have abandoned the axe, as he was the most intelligent among them, and abandoned theirs too at the same place!

They went into the forest, selected the tree to fell but they had no axe with them. They wondered how they should cut the tree. One of the skillful among them said: "I will climb the tree and hang from a branch. We can form a hanging chain by gripping one another's feet and the tree branch will come crashing down, unable to bear the weight." They agreed and executed the plan. The one gripping the branch moved his hand, saying the tree branch would fall if he tightened his grip. But he lost his grip and all of them fell down. The tree branch, however, was as it was.

People are aware of the identity of the persons who abandoned their axes without keeping in mind its importance in cutting the wood and started entertaining futile thoughts. The people are aware who delayed the election through court cases without using the axe of people's support during election time. People also know well about the truly capable persons who have the axe of their great support.

I convey my appreciation to the Government, public sector and private establishments as well as to those from the Central Government and other States for putting up excellent pavilions in this fair.

It is Hon'ble Amma's Government which banned first the 'use and throw' plastic articles. I am extremely happy over your support to it. I lovingly seek your support to discard the use and throw plastic products in this exhibition and to keep the pavilions clean.

Thanking all the good hearts who have arranged this pleasant function in a good way, I take leave of you.

Nandri! Vanakkam!

Kudimaramathu scheme working fine

Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu **Thiru. Edappadi K.Palaniswami's** clarification in the Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly on 07.01.2020 regarding Kudimaramathu Scheme. *(English Translation)*

Hon'ble Speaker Sir,

All farmers have been placing demands for de-silting. Members of the public are also placing a similar demand. Hon'ble Member charged that the de-silting had not been done properly. I think he is also involved in agriculture. I am also engaged in agriculture. During de-silting, only alluvial soil on the top portion of the earth is removed. After the de-silting, the volume of the tank increases and all the rain water is stored in the tank. Similarly rain water is saved in *oorunis* and ponds. Only with the intention of saving every drop of rain water, the Government has been implementing the rain water harvesting scheme.

Since you are a farmer belonging to the Delta District, you know about the severity of drought that hit the State 2 years ago. Due to that severe drought, mature paddy crops in about 2 lakh acres were lost. If tanks are de-silted, then their volumes will increase, resulting in more storage of water. We could have saved the crops in 2 lakh acres if the canals and tanks had been de-silted by then. I would like to inform the Hon'ble Member through you that taking all this into consideration , the Kudimaramathu Scheme is being implemented with the participation of farmers.

Farmers are using the de-silted alluvial soil as manure. There are 2 benefits due to de-silting. First, the tanks are deepened and second, the farmers are getting alluvial soil, a natural manure for their lands. It is a scheme undertaken by the Government. I would like to point out that the scheme is being implemented with the full participation of farmers.

The Mettur Reservoir was constructed 83 years ago. During these 83 years, due to accumulation of alluvial soil on top surface of the Reservoir, the volume of the reservoir has reduced. Due to this, the storage of water in the reservoir has reduced. I would like to inform the Hon'ble Member through you, that the Government has introduced the scheme so that more water can be stored in the reservoir.

This is a great scheme. Kudimaramathu Scheme is the culmination of the wishes of all people. Since, I myself being a farmer, I know the value of water and that is the reason we conceived this Scheme. For this we appointed 5 Engineers, 2 retired Chief Engineers and 3 Superintendent Engineers, one-and-a-half years ago. We have launched the water harvesting scheme in places where excess water from the streams and rivers is flowing into the sea. We have built check-dams in those places. I would like to inform the Hon'ble Member that all tanks, ponds and oorunis have been de-silted.

So there are no faults in the scheme. I would like to inform the Hon'ble Member that the alluvial soil on top of the surface alone is de-silted. Farmers are not given permission to de-silt more than the permitted limit.

Not only that. You talked about Grand Anicut Canal. We have conceived a scheme to revamp all canals in the Delta Districts and the proposal has been sent to the Central Government for its clearance. The total length of the canals is about 35,000 km. Nearly 20 per cent of the water is wasted due to seepage, when water flows through the canals. For saving that 20 per cent of water we have to set up modern canals. I would like inform at this juncture we have sought funds from the Central Government for constructing modern canals.

The surplus rain water from the Mettur Reservoir during the Monsoon is flowing into the sea. To utilize the surplus water in a proper manner, we have planned a big scheme linking Karur-Mayanur check-dam to Kundaru in Virudhunagar. The scheme will touch Tiruchi, Pudukkottai, Sivagangai and Gundaru. For the scheme, a canal to carry 6,000 cusecs of water would be set up. I would like to inform the Hon'ble Member that by setting up such a canal, the surplus water during the monsoon can be stored and utilized for irrigation purposes.

We are also implementing more such schemes. I would like to inform the Hon'ble Member through you that I shall inform those details during my reply to the Governor's address.

Hon'ble Speaker Sir,

They talked about Mettur Reservoir. As far as Mettur Reservoir is concerned we have de-silted only after 5 km. The Government has not done the de-silting. It was the farmers who did the de-silting and took the alluvial soil. The Government is not taking the alluvial soil. Farmers are removing nearly 2,000 to 3,000 lorry loads of alluvial soil. The de-silted soil is taken to areas 50 km away. Even for my land, the alluvial soil is used as manure. As per the request of the farmers in and around 50 to 60 km area, they are allowed to de-silt the alluvial soil 5 km away with the permission of the Government officials and engineers without any damage. The Government is not de-silting the soil. The Government is giving permission to farmers to de-silt. Only after getting the permission from the officials, they are allowed to de-silt the soil. Otherwise people will lift the soil and sell it. We have banned that too. Only farmers who own land are permitted to de-silt after getting the necessary permission from the Agriculture Department officials concerned. That permission letter should be shown to the engineers at the site to undertake the de-silting work. Only on permission, farmers are permitted to de-silt in places where alluvial soil is available. I would like to inform the Hon'ble Member that farmers who take the de-silted soil, use it as manure for their lands.

Hon'ble Speaker Sir,

They talked about Cauvery-Gundaru link. It is a major scheme and it is not possible to complete it in a short time. It is a Rs.20,000 crore project. The State has no funds to finance the project. It has approached the Central Government. We are preparing a detailed project report to be implemented jointly by the Central and State Governments. I have explained the scheme to the Union Minister of Water Resources. I also informed the Hon'ble Prime Minister. They also assured necessary assistance for implementing the project. I am happy to announce through you that the foundation stone for the project will be laid by the end of this year.

Hon'ble Speaker Sir,

This scheme is to be taken through open canal. Detailed report is being prepared. The scheme is to be implemented through modern method. I would like to inform through you that the canal will be set up in such a way to carry additional water.

Announcements made in the Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly under Rule 110 have been honoured by this Government

Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu **Thiru. Edappadi K.Palaniswami's** clarification on 07.01.2019, regarding progress with regard to announcements made in the Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly under Rule 110 (*English Translation*)

When Hon'ble Idaya Theivam Puratchi Thalaivi Amma was the Chief Minister of the State during six years from 2011-2012 to 2016-2017, Hon'ble Amma made 1,055 statements in the Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly under Rule 110. Government orders have been issued for all these announcements. I would like to inform the Member that of these, schemes for 822 announcements have since been completed. Schemes for 230 announcements are at the finishing stage. Two schemes are pending due to court intervention and one announcement is under the consideration of the Central Government.

Similarly, in the last 3 years between 2017-2018 and 2019-2020, totally 453 announcements have been made under Legislature Rule 110. Government orders have since been issued for 417 announcements. Of these, schemes for 114 announcements have been completed fully while schemes are under finishing stage regarding 303 announcements. For 26 announcements, preparatory works are going on. Nine announcements are under the consideration of the Central Government and one is pending due to court intervention.

I am happy to inform the Hon'ble Member that since the Amma Government took over, 47,828 schemes, worth Rs.34,853.83 crore have been inaugurated by me till date. I would like to bring it to the notice of the Hon'ble Member that foundation stones have been laid by me for 7,950 schemes worth Rs.24,090.88 crore. I would like to inform the Hon'ble Member that a majority of the announcements made in the Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly under Legislature Rule 110 have been honoured by this Government.

Awards to Tamil Nadu 'on maintenance of law and order are based on statistics'

Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu **Thiru. Edappadi K.Palaniswami's** clarification in the Tamil Nadu LegislativeAssembly on 07.01.2020, regarding first place to Tamil Nadu for Law and Order maintenance and Local Body elections. *(English Translation)*

Hon'ble Speaker Sir,

On what basis do you say that the law and order situation in the State is not good. The Central Government has given the statistics. Based on the statistics only we are saying that the State tops the country in maintaining Law and Order. What happened during your rule in the State? Shall I give the statistics? You know what the charges against you are. We know about everything you did in Tiruppur. It is not proper to explain in this forum. Do not talk with an ulterior motive but speak about the actual position.

Hon'ble Speaker Sir,

It is not we who are saying that Tamil Nadu is the best in maintaining law and order. It is what the Central Government is saying after a review. India Today, an English Magazine awarded us for being the best. We are only telling what others have said about the Law and Order situation in the State.

You are coming with the ulterior motive of creating a problem and you are not ready to speak about the actual position. The Central Government, after studying various parameters gave Tamil Nadu the first place in Law and Order maintenance. But the Hon'ble Member is speaking intentionally with a motive. You come for the Governor's speech and speak on the occasion. We have more points to talk about you. We have sufficient proof. If I talk about it, it will lead to unnecessary debate.

Hon'ble Speaker Sir,

Leader of the Opposition and the Deputy Leader of the Opposition spoke demanding explanation on various occasions. They have been allowed to do so. But one MLA, belonging to the

DMK, has been responsible for creating trouble. He is Hon'ble Member Thiru. J.Anbazhagan. Whenever he speaks in the House, his words create trouble. Everybody in the House knows it. The Deputy Leader of the Opposition also knows it. I had already mentioned that the Member concerned was trying to give false information to the House. If he had spoken about the Governor's Address, there would have been no problem. But the problem arose when he went beyond it. He tried to criticize the Hon'ble Local Administration Minister personally. The Hon'ble Minister intervened only when the Member concerned attacked him personally. Everybody has feelings. Based on that only the Hon'ble Minister rose but did not speak. If the Hon'ble Member had stuck to the Governor's address, there would not have been any problem. You expressed one opinion and the same was disputed by the treasury bench. Instead of going to the next topic after the treasury bench's reply, the Hon'ble Member repeatedly spoke and created an issue. He wanted to create trouble in the House which was functioning smoothly. I would like to inform through you that this is my view.

Hon'ble Leader of the Opposition said that the Hon'ble Chief Minister became emotional. The issue arose when personal comments were made. If you talk about a general issue it will not create any problem to anybody. On the other hand, if the attack is personal, then whoever it may be, either Opposition or ruling party, the problem arises. I would like to inform through you that by avoiding such things and maintaining the decorum of the House, problems will not arise.

Hon'ble Speaker Sir,

An allegation has been made that Local body elections were not conducted properly. I am telling the truth, no irregularity happened in any place. Government employees did the counting. Do you mean to say they indulged in irregularities? Teachers and Government officials were involved in the counting. They did the counting from 8 am to 10 am the next day, all the while in a standing position. No agent was allowed and all of them stood outside whichever party, including Independent, the agent belonged to. So no irregularity has taken place. In my constituency, in the Nangavalli Union a candidate lost by 11 votes and another by 17 votes. No recount was done. Both the defeated candidates gave petitions for recounting. Even after that, no recounting was ordered. I am saying this because when the Hon'ble Leader of the Opposition makes comments, they appear in newspapers. But I want to clarify the position as the charges against Government officials will bring disrepute to them. As far as these elections are concerned, the Election Commission acted fairly. The officials involved in the election process acted fairly, independently and legally with 'dharmic' attitude. That was why about 450 independent candidates won the elections. It is not normal. They did not belong either to the Ruling Party or the Opposition party. They are not Members of either your alliance or our alliance parties. They won the elections despite having no backing. This is proof, I would like to inform the Hon'ble Leader of the Opposition through you, that the Election Commission conducted the elections efficiently without any complaints.

Hon'ble Speaker Sir,

As far as Panchayat Union Members are concerned, the alliance led by the All India Anna DMK recorded 43.73 per cent of votes and the alliance led by the DMK 45.32 per cent. You have secured 1.59 per cent of votes more. Similarly in the District Union election, the AIADMK alliance registered 39.60 per cent votes and the DMK front 40.35 per cent of votes. I would like to inform that you had secured only 0.75 per cent of votes more than us.

Tamil Nadu's performance Tops in Good Governance Index

Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu **Thiru. Edappadi K.Palaniswami's** explanation in the Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly on 08.01.2020, regarding the Central Government's announcement selecting Tamil Nadu for the Good Governance Index (*English Translation*)

Hon'ble Speaker Sir,

The Good Governance Ranking has been given to Tamil Nadu based on the State's performance in various Departments. It is not first in all Departments but has been adjudged first in the composite ranking. In the combined ranking list released by the Union Minister of State, Thiru. Jitendra Singh, Tamil Nadu stands first among the big states. The achievement is due to combined hard efforts put up by the people of Tamil Nadu, Hon'ble MLAs, Government Department heads and Hon'ble Ministers.

Agriculture: Production of agriculture products, rearing of cattle and poultry, milk production, horticulture, meat and crop insurance

Commerce and Industry: Total number of industrial units, licenses for starting new industries, development of micro and small industrial units

Human Resources Development: School and higher education , drop outs in primary classes, birth rate of males and females, registration of Adi Dravidar and Tribal people, skill education and self-employment

Public Health: Number of Primary Health Centres, working hours and serving doctors, number of doctors, maternity rate, death rate at the time of delivery, general birth rate and preventive disease record

Infrastructure facilities: Drinking water facility for people, cities and villages without open toilets, power supply in villages, 24-hour electricity facility, supplying adequate electricity and individual income

Economic Governance: Gross domestic production and growth rate in the State, individual income growth and fiscal deficit, State's revenue and the State's debt;

Social Welfare and Development: Male and female birth rate, medical insurance, employment guarantee in rural areas, total number of unemployed, houses for all, economic development of women, welfare of oppressed, backward class, tribal, and minorities and crime against the oppressed

Justice and Public Security: Law and order and crime rate, number of women police, total number of legal cases and consumer cases brought to resolution

Environment: Steps to protect environment in the State and the increase in forest cover in the State.

The composite ranking was released after reviewing 50 parameters of Governance in 10 divisions like public-oriented administration and implementation of service acts in the State. For example, use of computer and cell phone in administration, use of *Uzhavan* app, *Kavalan* app, e-service centres, and single window scheme were considered.

Based on the review only, Tamil Nadu has been placed as the first in Good Governance Index. The list was released by the Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances Department, which is functioning under the direct control of the Prime Minister. This Department has been giving the Prime Minister's Award and e-governance award for many years.

The following institutions select the award winners: Reserve Bank of India, Census of India, National Crime Rates Bureau in which the Leader of the Opposition also finds a place, NHS, NSSO, Statistical Year book, NSSO, Indian Public Finance Statistics and DISE.

These recognized Central Government institutions review various data and review reports of various Central Government Departments and release the Good Governance Index. Do you think that the statistics provided by the top Institutions of the country are made up?

Tamil Nadu stands first in Justice and Protection and Infrastructure, second in Public Health, third in Environment and fifth in Human Resources Development and Economic Governance. If the Index is made up as alleged by the leader of the Opposition, then Tamil Nadu should have received the first rank in all indexes. It is not like that. Based on the combined ranking, they award marks and based on the marks alone, this Award has been given to Tamil Nadu.

The Puducherry Government, which is led by the Congress-DMK alliance, has also been given the Good Governance index among the Union Territories. This itself shows that there is no partiality in the selection and the Good Governance Index was based on the real performance of the State. This holds good for Puducherry also. It has been selected based on total marks.

'India Today' magazine informed the same. International firm 'Frost and Sullivan' for the third year in succession has held that Tamil Nadu stands second in uniform growth, innovation and leadership indexes.

NCAER and Public Affairs Index and other non-Governmental organizations also have selected Tamil Nadu as the second best State and first State in Good Governance, Law and Order and other areas.

This Good Governance Index has been released by the Central Government after reviewing various parameters. I would like to inform the people through you that the results of various international and national organizations only show that Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi's Government excels in development of various fields.

Report of Jallikattu probe expected

Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu **Thiru. Edappadi K.Palaniswami's** explanation in the Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly on 07.01.2020 regarding Jallikattu Agitation probe, Sterlite enquiry and allotment of funds for the finding new paddy variety.

(English Translation)

Hon'ble Speaker Sir,

At the time of Jallikattu agitation, similar agitations were held in different parts of the State. There were violent incidents also. To enquire into all those incidents, the Tamil Nadu Government appointed an Enquiry Commission led by a retired High Court Judge and the Enquiry Commission is now conducting enquiry. The incidents did not happen in one place but throughout the State. The Commission has been enquiring into incidents that were held in different parts of the State. That is the reason for the delay. We have also requested the Commission to submit its report at the earliest and expect the Commission to submit its report soon.

Hon'ble Speaker Sir,

Hon'ble Member is a Senior Member of the House. He is a good lawyer. As a lawyer he had placed his opinions in the House. The Sterlite issue was taken to court and the court issued a directive for CBI enquiry and the probe is also going on. The State Government on its part has also appointed a one-man commission led by a High Court Judge to enquire into various incidents of violence and that enquiry is also going on. Only after knowing the factual truth about the incidents further action can be taken. We cannot take any action unilaterally and immediately. This is a serious issue. I would like to inform the Member through you that the issue has been taken to court and the court is enquiring into the issue.

Hon'ble Speaker Sir,

Hon'ble Member expressed an opinion that a new paddy variety should be developed. I would like to inform the Member through you that the present Government had allotted Rs.5 crore to a Research Institute in the Agriculture University in Coimbatore for finding new paddy variety and new grains that could give more yield.

Hon'ble Chief Minister lauds reading habit, grants Rs.75 lakh for conducting Book Fair

Speech of the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu **Thiru. Edappadi K.Palaniswami** on 09.01.2020, after inaugurating the 43rd Chennai Book Fair organized by the Book Sellers and Publishers Association of South India *(English Translation)*

Bowing to Goddess Hon'ble Idaya Deivam Puratchi Thalaivi Amma,

I am extremely happy to participate in the 43rd Chennai Book Fair conducted by the Book Sellers and Publishers of South India (BAPASI).

Respected Padma Sri Dr. Nalli Kuppuswamy who is presiding over this knowledge-based pleasant function attended by authors and readers, special guests Thiru. K.A.Sengottaiyan, Hon'ble Minister for School Education, Youth Welfare and Sports Development, Thiru. K.P.Anbalagan, Hon'ble Minister for Higher Education, Dr.V. Saroja, Hon'ble Minister for Social Welfare, Thiru. K. Pandiarajan, Hon'ble Minister for Tamil Official Language, Tamil Culture and Archaeology, participants Tmt. B. Valarmathi, Chairperson, Tamil Nadu Textbook and Educational Services Corporation and former Minister, Dr. Vaigaichelvan, former Education Minister who is to deliver a special address, Thiru.R.S. Shanmugam, BAPASI President, who delivered the welcome address, Thiruvalargal Virugai Ravi, Thiru. K.V.Ramalingam and Thiru. Thennarasu, Members of the Legislative Assembly, former Ministers, Members of Parliament and Members of the Legislative Assembly, leading office-bearers of the Party, Elders, Ladies, Awardee Publishers and Authors, Newspaper and Media friends, Thiru.S.K. Murugan, Secretary, BAPASI who is to propose a vote of thanks – at the outset, my respects to all of you.

Every year, the holding of the tourist fair that offers a feast for the eyes and mind and the book fair that offers an intellectual feast around the Pongal festival, have become the hallmark of Chennai.

Due to the efforts of Thiru. Mathew, BAPASI was started with some publishers and book-sellers as Members. A federation was created on 24.08.1976 for publication of more books so as to meet the needs of book enthusiasts, to spread the book reading habit and to create awareness about books. This federation conducted the first book fair in 1977. I am happy to learn that more publishers and book sellers joined the federation following the success of the first Fair

It is a matter of pride that an exclusive Fair for books is conducted in Tamil Nadu every year. It is truly praiseworthy that the Fair is held in Madurai and Coimbatore every year besides Chennai.

I feel great pride in inaugurating BAPASI's 43rd Book Fair that spreads the reading habit in people. This Book Fair is a festival of joy for people of all ages. The Fair is to continue till 21st of this month.

I wish to mention a few of the special features of this Fair here.

❖ The Tamil Nadu Archaeological Department's special pavilion on its Keezhadi excavations, is set on a 3,000 sq.ft. area. Besides exhibiting the articles our forefathers used, the pavilion makes us visualize the type of life they led 2,500 years ago. If their civilization was at a level that is admired by the present generation, to what extent our greatness, my Tamil Nadu's greatness should have been! The exhibits are displayed in a way as to bring out this sentiment in us. I convey my appreciation for this.

❖ The Tiruvalluvar sand sculpture is very good. My appreciation to the sculptor who has created a representation of Thiruvalluvar in sand bearing a great likeness.

❖ Books published in Tamil and English, 15 lakh titles covering many sections including literature, arts, science, technology, history, general knowledge, sports, food and health are to be displayed and sold in the Fair.

❖ `Chennai Reads' with the participation of 10,000 students is a new event in this year's Fair.

❖ I am extremely happy to learn that many knowledge-based events, oratorical, drawing and other such competitions for students and many other events are held in the Fair.

❖ Thirukkural is a universal code of ethics and has been published in translations in many world languages. The book wrappers of such editions are to be exhibited in the Fair.

"Man's greatest invention is the book", said Albert Einstein. A book speaks to people without opening its mouth! Likewise, it is the best friend that never cheats. Only books connect man to the world. The book is not an ornamental object. It is a friend that guides one

on the right path. But for books, humanity would not have achieved development to this degree. Even as exercise develops the body, reading books develops the mind. Those who have accepted books as their dearest friend have reached the pinnacle of fame. Many have become achievers.

Abraham Lincoln, lauded as 'the sun of slaves' , rose up in life by reading books. A fair of books, that deserve such great honour, has been inaugurated today. George Washington who borrowed and read the book 'History' rose to be the President of the US later. Karl Marx who read many rare books for 20 years in a London Library and contemplated on them became the 'Father of World Communism'.

Perarignar Anna used to be praised as a 'post graduate youth who went to Chennai from Kancheepuram and ended up becoming Tamil Nadu Chief Minister". He had read most of the books in the Connemara Library, Chennai. It is said that he would enter the library when it opened and come out of it in the night when it closed for the day.

All that the late President of India Thiru.Abdul Kalam took back with him to his native place at the end of his tenure, were 1,000 books. While in office also, what he loved most was reading books.

Father of our Nation Mahatma Gandhi termed John Ruskin's 'Unto the Last' as the book that turned his life upside down. "I finished that book during a journey. I could not sleep the whole of that night due to its impact", he said.

When queried, "Why did you undertake three days car journey to Bombay without choosing a flight", Perarignar Anna replied: "I had to read 10 books".

When London friends asked "Where do you want to stay", Baba Saheb Dr. Ambedkar replied: "The place that is near the library".

When death sentence was passed against 'Maaveeran' Bhagat Singh, he did not throw tantrums or seek mercy with an apology letter,

but went on reading books till he was executed in the gallows.

When imprisoned, Nelson Mandela said: ‟I don't want any freedom in prison; just permit me to read books''.

"A student cannot exhaust Tamil literary works even if he studies them for 100 years. We have such a wealth of Tamil literature with us," stated Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivar M.G.R.

Our Puratchi Thalaivi Hon'ble Amma had a library in her house itself. She had more than 1,000 books. Her wide reading made Hon'ble Amma proficient in many languages. As she was a voracious reader, she could visualize and give the 'Vision 2023' document. You all know she took Tamil Nadu on the path of progress through this.

I wish to mention some of the achievements of Hon'ble Amma's Government in the field of libraries for whetting the reading habit in people.

❖ At present, 4,634 libraries function under the Tamil Nadu Government. To encourage the reading habit in people, 'Librarian Day', 'Library Day', 'National Library Week' and 'World Book Day' are celebrated every year.

❖ Books costing Rs.25 crore are distributed to Public Libraries throughout the State for use.

❖ Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma set up a permanent book fair in the Connemara Library in 2004 and it is functioning excellently for the last 16 years.

❖ To honour efficient Librarians, S.R.Ranganathan Award is conferred every year. To encourage excellent maintenance of libraries, Shields to libraries and Library Enthusiast Awards are distributed on the orders of Hon'ble Amma.

❖ Works on setting up a very large library with the capacity to keep one lakh books in the Madurai World Tamil Sangam complex are going on at a cost of Rs.5.79 crore. The Tamil Nadu Text Book and Educational Services Corporation is extending financial assistance.

❖ One lakh rare Tamil works from all over the world were collected and donated to the Jaffna Library for the benefit of Tamils in Sri Lanka.

❖ All District Central Libraries have been upgraded as Smart Libraries with the books needed for students preparing for competitive examinations and with downloading facility of national and internationally important global newspapers and magazines.

❖ For Library Directorate's improved performance, Rs.125 crore has been allotted this year.

Hon'ble Amma's Government is implementing many such schemes in the field of libraries.

Though we have facilities of e-book reading, audio book and video learning in smart phones, we should think of the concept of 'a library in each home'. If one is to get the best opportunities in life and if one's individual

values are to be marked by dignity, one should make book reading a daily routine.

"*Thammir Periyaar thamaraa ozhugudhal, vanmaiyul ellaam thalai*" (Having the support of persons better than oneself in all respects and treading their path is the greatest of all strengths), says Valluvar Perunthagai. Similarly, taking the support of books and following the discipline mentioned in them, will give great strength and bring the best prospects, especially to youth.

I strongly urge people, particularly the youth to visit libraries and book fairs, understand the developments taking place in the publishing field and develop their capacity and intelligence by purchasing and reading books being published every day. Through this not only the thinking capacity of individuals but also that of the nation as a whole will improve.

The fact that every year more and more people are visiting the Book Fair conducted by BAPASI shows that the book reading habit has increased among people. I extend my good wishes for more people visiting the 43rd Book Fair being conducted this year, so that it goes off well and succeeds.

I am very happy that awards are presented in this function today to honour intellectuals for their works. My hearty congratulations to all the awardees.

While congratulating the BAPASI for arranging and conducting the 43rd Book Fair in an outstanding manner, I offer my hearty New Year and Pongal greetings to all of you.

BAPASI secretary Thiru.S.K. Murugan mentioned in his speech that government funds are needed to conduct the Book Fair in an excellent way. I am happy to say that Rs.75 lakh will be given by the government to this Book Fair from next year. I am extremely happy to participate in this Book Fair which has turned out to be a wonderful repository of books to create an intellectual atmosphere. Thanking all the good hearts for giving me this opportunity, I take leave of you.

Nandri! Vanakkam! ■

Hon'ble Chief Minister opens sports meet for IAS officers, Central service personnel

Speech of the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, **Thiru. Edappadi K.Palaniswami** at the sports meet for Indian Administrative Service officers and the Central Service personnel at the Marina Cricket ground on 04.01.2020 *(English Translation)*.

Hon'ble Minister for Fisheries Thiru. D.Jayakumar,

Respected Chief Secretary Thiru. K.Shanmugam I.A.S.,

Respected Director General of Police Thiru. Tripathy I.P.S.,

Principal Secretary for Youth Welfare and Sports Development Thiru. Dheeraj Kumar I.A.S.,

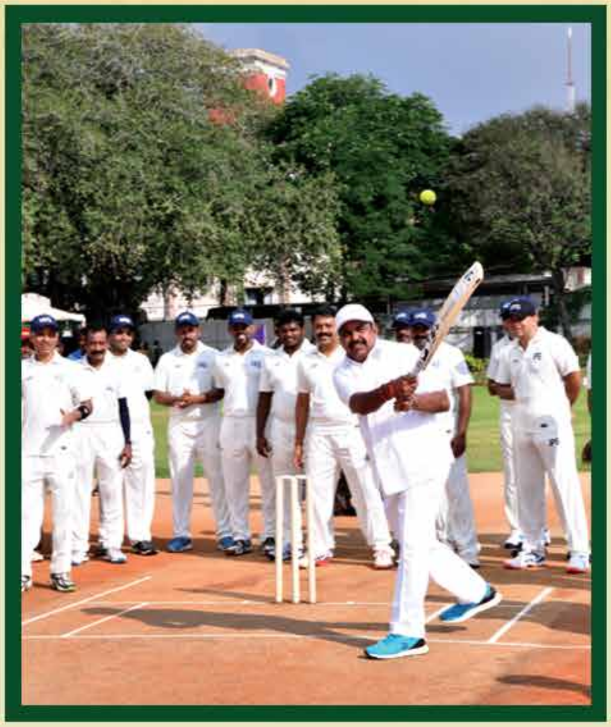
Principal Secretary/ Member Secretary of the Tamil Nadu Sports Development Authority Thiru. Ramesh Chand Meena I.A.S.,

Former MP, who is gracing the function by his participation,

I.A.S. and I.P.S. officers, high officials, students, representatives from the media, all those who have all gathered here to cheer the participants in the sports meet, captains of the two teams….

At the outset, I welcome you all to the sports meet being held here this beautiful early morning.

Sports is very important to maintain good health and a smart physique. Higher Government officials have heavy work load. To



rid themselves of the stress of work pressure, it is necessary to actively participate in sports activities, which help reduce mental pressure and give happiness, besides improving work skill. Sports therefore has a vital role to play. There is no restriction that only youth, boys and girls alone should play games. There is no age limit for sporting activities. Health and physical strength alone are necessary for playing games.

Sports is needed to give us physical strength, good health and a trim physique so that we can lead a joyous life. It is a meet of such sports activity that is being inaugurated here for I.A.S. and Central Service personnel. Through you, the youth and Members of the public should learn to live a healthy life with good physique and to rid themselves of stress and mental pressure by playing games happily. I am extremely happy to inaugurate this sports meet for I.A.S. officers and Central personnel.

NEWS IN PICTURE

Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu **Thiru. Edappadi K.Palaniswami**, at the Secretariat on 13.01.2020, handed over a cheque for Rs.One crore to the family Members of Special Police Sub-Inspector Thiru. Wilson, who was shot and stabbed by two men when he was on duty at the Police Outpost in Kaliyakkavilai in Kanniyakumari District on 08.01.2020.

‘Do not believe rumours on CAA’

Statement of the Hon’ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu **Thiru. Edappadi K. Palaniswami** on 22.12.2019 *(English Translation).*

This Government, which treads the path chalked out by the guardians of minorities, Hon’ble Puratchi Thalaivar and Hon’ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma, remains a fortress to defend the people of minority communities. This Government, that functions on the chartered course of the leaders of this great movement, continues to be firm in defending the minorities from any harm at any point of time.

Though no Indian citizen, as I have already stated, will be affected by this Citizenship (Amendment) Act, some people continue to spread the rumour among Muslim brethren that their citizenship rights will be affected by it. This is totally wrong. I affectionately request the people of Tamil Nadu not to believe these false rumours.

During the debate on the Citizenship (Amendment) Bill in Parliament also, AIADMK Members stressed Hon’ble Amma’s demand for ‘dual citizenship’ to Sri Lankan Tamils living in India. I too urged this demand to the Hon’ble Prime Minister and Hon’ble Home Minister in person at New Delhi. We are always firm on this stand.

As this Government that follows the path of Hon’ble Amma continues to function for the welfare, development and safety of all sections of Tamil Nadu people, I request them to keep peace without heeding to erroneous propaganda.

I affectionately request that no one should spread rumours that will create anxiety among people and disturb the general peace in our State which remains a Garden of Peace.

Rs.1 crore cheque for Houston Tamil Chair

Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Thiru. Edappadi K.Palaniswami, at the Secretariat on 23.12.2019, handed over a cheque for Rs.1 crore to the Houston University Tamil Chair president, Thiru. Sam Kannappan, for setting up the Tamil Chair in the Houston University in Texas State in the USA, on behalf of the Tamil Development Department.

Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma, for the first time introduced the setting up Tamil Chairs in all premier universities in the country. As a continuation of the scheme, Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Thiru. Edappadi K.Palaniswami announced in the Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly on 28.06.2019 under Rule 110 that Tamil Chairs would continue to be set up in all educational institutions abroad where Tamils live in large numbers, and in other States.

As per the announcement, following a demand for funds for setting up Tamil Chair from the Houston University, Texas State in the United States, Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Thiru. Edappadi K.Palaniswami handed over a cheque for Rs.1 crore to the Houston University for setting up Tamil Chair in the University, as the Tamil Nadu Government's contribution. The cheque was handed over to the president of the Tamil Chair, Houston University, Thiru. Sam Kannappan.

Setting up Tamil Chairs in foreign universities would help Tamils living abroad and the local people to learn the Tamil Language, to know Tamil Culture, do research in the classical and modern literature in the language with reference to art, culture, scientific thinking and myths and publicise the findings to the world at large.

Award-winning body builder gets Rs.25 lakh incentive

Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Thiru. Edappadi K.Palaniswami, at the Secretariat in Chennai on 23.12.2019, handed over a cheque for Rs. 25 lakh as the highest incentive to Thiru. S.Bhaskaran, who won the Central Government's Arjuna Award for the year 2019 and bagged various medals at the National and International body building events. The Hon'ble Chief Minister also handed over a cheque for Rs. 3.75 lakh to his trainer Thiru. M.Arasu on the occasion.

With a view to helping sportspersons belonging to Tamil Nadu to participate and win in national and international sports events, the Tamil Nadu Government, treading the path of Puratchi Thalaivi Amma has been taking steps to give intense training to sportsmen, announcing incentive prize, financial assistance to those who participate in international tournaments, setting up sports hostels for sportspersons to stay and practice, organizing village-level sports events to encourage rural youth, setting up sports grounds in Districts and encouraging traditional games.

In this way, Thiru. Bhaskaran has won in many national body building events. He won the Gold Medal at the 52nd Asian Body Building event in 60 kg category, held in Pune from 02.10.2018 to 08.10.2018, Gold Medal in the 10th World Body Building event held in Chiangmai City in Thailand from 14.12.2018 to 17.12.2018 and was conferred the Arjuna Award for the Year 2019 by the Government of India.

The Tamil Nadu Government sanctioned the highest incentive of Rs. 25 lakh and the cheque for the incentive was handed over to Thiru. Bhaskaran by Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, Thiru. Edappadi K.Palaniswami at the Secretariat. The Hon'ble Chief Minister also handed over a cheque for Rs. 3.75 lakh to his trainer Thiru. M.Arasu on the occasion.

Amma's Government is taking great interest in developing infrastructure in Municipalities and implementing many schemes

Speech of the Hon' ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu **Thiru. Edappadi K. Palaniswami** at the Villupuram Municipality Centenary function held in Villupuram on 26.11.2019 *(English Translation)*.

Paying obeisance to Goddess Hon'ble Idaya Deivam Puratchi Thalaivi Amma,

I am extremely happy to participate in the opening ceremony of the law college complex, the new building of the Dr.M.G.R. Arts and Science college for women and the Villupuram Municipality centenary at Villupuram.

Deiva Pulavar Thiruvalluvar said that the greatness of the wise is that they don't swerve towards one side or the other but are impartial like the scales of the balance. This maxim greatly fits the judiciary. The judiciary is one of the 4 pillars that uphold democracy. The role of the judiciary in ensuring peace and happiness in the country. I am proud to say that administration of justice is conducted in our country on the principle that all are equal before the law.

Law colleges function as institutions which help in shaping a strong judicial administration. It is only students in the law colleges who rise up in later years to become great legal experts and judges.

Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivar proclaimed his faith in righteousness and justice by giving names to his films extolling the greatness of justice, like 'Needhikku Pin Pasam' and 'Needhikku Thalaivanangu' ('Justice precedes family ties'; 'Bow before justice'). He ensured

that there were dialogues and songs in his films that praised the law, justice, honesty and truthfulness.

In accordance with the lines of his song 'Thavi thavikkira Ezhaikkaaga thittam podanum – porulai sarisamamaa pangu vaikka sattam podanum' (We must devise schemes for the suffering poor, we must enact laws for equitable distribution of wealth'), he provided an excellent administration after becoming Chief Minister.

Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi said: "It is our responsibility to ensure the constitutional rights of the poor". In keeping with this view, it is the Dr. Ambedkar Law University that offers quality legal education at the lowest fee in the whole of Asia.

Before Amma took over the reins of administration, that is before May 2011, there were only 7 law colleges in Tamil Nadu – at Chennai, Madurai, Tiruchirappalli, Coimbatore, Tirunelveli, Chengalpattu and Vellore. After assuming the administration, Hon'ble Amma created the Tamil Nadu National Law School at Srirangam, Tiruchirappalli District at a cost of Rs.79 crore in 2012 for providing the best law education at the national level; it offers a 5-year degree course.

After assuming office, Hon'ble Amma's Government has been giving the greatest importance to legal study. So much so, from the academic year 2017-2018, three law colleges were started in the Districts of Villupuram, Dharmapuri and Ramanathapuram and Rs.2.27 crore was sanctioned to each of these colleges. In the year 2017, post-graduate course was started in Chengalpattu Government Law College and a new 5-year law course in the Vellore Government Law College. Also, in the 2017-2018 academic year, Tamil medium classes were newly introduced in the Government law colleges at Tiruchirappalli, Coimbatore, Tirunelveli and Chengalpattu.

On the recommendation of Justice Thiru.P. Shanmugam Inquiry Commsion and on the direction of the Madras High Court, the Chennai Dr. Ambedkar Government Law College, functioning in the Madras High Court complex was shifted in the 2018-2019 academic year and it is now functioning as 2 colleges at

Pattarai Perumbudur, Tiruvallur District and at Pudupakkam, Kancheepuram District.

From 2019-2020 academic year, Government law colleges with 3-year and 5-year law courses were started in the Districts of Salem, Namakkal and Theni. Post graduate law courses like 'climate change laws', 'information technology and cyber security laws' and 'corporate governance laws' have been started from the academic year 2019-2020, in the Government law colleges at Pudupakkam, Villupuram and Dharmapuri respectively. In this way, the number of law colleges that were 7, before this Government took over administration, was doubled and now there are 14 Government law colleges, one national law school and a Tamil Nadu Dr.Ambedkar Law University in Tamil Nadu.

In the 14 Government law colleges (both 5 year and 3 year courses), 11,626 students are studying – 11,206 in the degree course and 420 in the post graduate course.

A new Government law college with 3 year and 5 year degree course and post graduate law study was started in Villupuram City from the academic year 2017-2018 as there was no such college for students of the three Districts of Villupuram and the neighbouring Tiruvannamalai and Cuddalore, in deference to the long-standing demand of the people of these Districts which together have a population of more than 85 lakh. The lofty aim was that these students should also study law.

A sum of Rs.2.27 crore has been sanctioned for the Villupuram Government law college for

infrastructure and to meet essential needs. The required posts have been created for teaching students and to attend to administrative work. For temporary functioning of this college till its own building is constructed, the old taluk office was selected and renovated. A permanent building with men and women hostels has been constructed for this college on 1.93 hectares land at Salamedu Village at a cost of Rs.70.60 crore. This building has 24 classrooms, a seminar hall with a seating capacity for 400 students, a video conferencing hall for 400 students, lecture room, separate leisure rooms for men and women students, computer lab, indoor stadium, a model court room of global standards, a modern college office and an administrative block and library buildings with wi-fi high speed internet connectivity. At present 500 students are studying law in this college – 240 in each of the 3 year and 5 year streams and 20 in the post graduate course.

Study of law has today turned into a field offering manifold job opportunities not merely in the traditional fields of advocacy and judicature but also in the sectors of trade due to globalization, environment, information technology, banking and in multi-national companies and through competitive examinations for civil service and Government jobs.

The Government is providing quality education in law by creating many facilities in each law college like ultra modern internet facilities, modern libraries and model courts for enhancing students' arguing skill, so that they can know, while studying, laws enacted and amended recently to suit the changing environment.

Hon'ble Amma started 65 colleges in Tamil Nadu saying "my aim is to increase enrolment in colleges to more than 50 per cent". Amma's Government that follows the path of Hon'ble Amma, also, started 12 Government arts and science colleges and 5 polytechnic colleges. This resulted in enrolment in higher education going up to 49 per cent. Today, Tamil Nadu is the premier State in India in higher education enrolment.

Hon'ble Amma's Government is implementing many schemes, paying great attention to providing infrastructure facilities to higher educational institutions. In this way, a new building is being constructed at a cost of Rs.4.84 crore for a Tamil Nadu Teachers Education University's constituent college at Villupuram.

The Dr.M.G.R. Government arts and science college for women, started in the academic year 2017-2018 is functioning from temporary premises. I wish to state that construction works for a permanent building for this college were completed at a cost of Rs.7.98 crore and classes are to start from today.

On this pleasant day, my good wishes to all college professors and students.

Villupuram Municipality, located on the Chennai-Tiruchi National Highway, is one of the fast developing Municipalities in Tamil Nadu. Started as a third grade Municipality on 01.10.1919, it was upgraded as a selection grade Municipality on 02.03.1988 and it completed hundred years of service on 30.09.2019. Through this event, I convey my hearty good wishes to the Villupuram Municipal Administration and the general public celebrating its historic centenary.

Among the highly urbanized big States in India, Tamil Nadu occupies the first place. Hon'ble Amma's visionary outlook and plans are the important reasons for that. After Hon'ble Amma's Government assumed office, it has been taking great interest in developing infrastructure in Municipalities and is implementing many schemes. In Villupuram Municipality, the following works have been taken up: Integrated urban and Tamil Nadu urban road development schemes and other schemes, 46 road works to a length of 17.40 km, costing Rs.9.22 crore, street lights (Rs.29.50 lakh), bore wells (Rs.83 lakh), vehicle for solid waste management (Rs.1.52 crore), manure from waste (Rs.4.70 crore) and finalizing and removal of rubbish through bio-mining method in fertilizer godown (Rs.3.49 crore).

As I have already announced in the Assembly under Rule 110 on 18.07.2019, Hon'ble Amma's Government, I am happy to say, has allotted Rs.50 crore as a special fund to Villupuram Municipality to mark its centenary. The fund will be utilized to works like construction of new office building for the Municipality, setting up a vegetable market, development of the old bus stand, laying new roads, drainage facility, street lights and upgrading tanks and parks in the Municipal areas.

Besides, I have today declared open 29 works of various Departments inclusive of the Departments of Law, Higher Education and Rural Development, completed at a cost of Rs.92.06 crore and laid foundation for 541 works valued at Rs.278.53 crore.

Though it is a challenging task to teach college students, you, the law college teachers should go beyond academic teaching in the classroom, and function as the true friend, good guide and the role model to students and discipline them. As for the students of law college, you are the future protectors of law and justice. Hence, you should concentrate on your education without giving room for any juvenile diversions. My good wishes to you all for becoming the best lawyers and judges. I affectionately request you at this hour, that you, as potential future judges, should examine the cases coming before you well, and pronounce judgment following the principle that all are equal before law and establish justice.

All the schemes that I have announced here are out of the demands made by the son of the soil of this District, Hon'ble Law Minister Thiru.C.Ve.Shanmugam. Every time he meets me, he places a demand. He wanted a law college, more than that allotment of a special fund for the centenary celebration of Villupuram Municipality. Conceding his demand, I made the announcement in the Assembly that a special fund of Rs.50 crore would be made to Villupuram Municipality for its centenary function.

Respected Law Minister is functioning excellently for the development of this District and for providing the best education to students of this District. This is a District of villages and farmers. To help children of these farmers who are working tirelessly round-the-clock, to take to higher education and study law, the Government has spent so much and has given you this wonderful building. The Government will support your law studies. It is also supportive of your college studies. You should study well and rise up in life. I wish you all the best for doing good by your family and your country, and take leave of you while being thankful for the opportunity given to me.

Nandri! Vanakkam!

‘May love, peace and brotherhood prevail’

Christmas Greetings of the Hon’ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu
Thiru. Edappadi K. Palaniswami - 24.12.2019 (*English Translation*)

I extend my hearty and merry Christmas greetings to all Christians, who are happily celebrating Christmas, the birth anniversary of Jesus Christ, the embodiment of love and kindness.

Christians celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ by decorating their homes with colourful stars, Christmas trees, vivid lights and set up decorated cottages to signify the birth place of Jesus. They also wear new clothes and take part in the Special Mass conducted in churches. They participate in feasts and celebrations with friends and relatives.

Lord Jesus Christ said that like a shepherd who retrieves lost sheep, he saves people who are in the midst of sins. On this joyful day, let us take a vow to follow the preachings of Jesus, forget the differences amongst us and live in unity.

On this happy day of the birth of Lord Jesus, who ruled the world through kindness, I pray that Love, Peace and Brotherhood prevail in this world and wish the Christian community a happy and merry Christmas.

Hon'ble Chief Minister opens 45 MLD plant at Koyambedu for recycling sewage

Speech of the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu **Thiru. Edappadi K. Palaniswami** after declaring open the tertiary sewage treatment plant with a capacity of 45 million litres of water per day, set up by the Chennai Metropolitan Water Supply and Sewarage Board on behalf of the Department of Municipal Administration and Water Supply, at Koyambedu, Chennai on 29.11.2019 *(English Translation).*

Bowing to Goddess Hon'ble Amma,

At the opening ceremony of Kodungaiyur tertiary sewage treatment plant, I had announced that a similar plant with a 45 MLD (million litres water per day) capacity would be commissioned shortly in Koyambedu area. Accordingly, I am extremely happy to participate today in the function to declare open a tertiary sewage treatment plant, set up at Koyambedu at a cost of Rs.486.21 crore.

Realizing the importance of water augmentation, Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma made rain water harvesting a people's movement and succeeded in her drive. To take forward rain water conservation on the lines of Hon'ble Amma, to increase and safeguard water bodies capacity, to ensure efficient water usage in agriculture and to encourage large scale usage of treated and re-cycled sewage and used water, I launched an intensive people's

movement - 'Water Resources Conservation and Augmentation Mission' – on 07.08.2019. This intensive movement employs several processes like conserving rain water, safeguarding water bodies through 'kudimaramathu' scheme and increasing their capacity, stabilizing drinking water supply by replenishing ground water, and reducing the pressure on potable water needs through usage of re-cycled used water, thereby promoting the concepts of re-use and re-cycling. In this way, every drop of used water should be purified and brought back for re-use. Today, we have opened a treatment plant that has a capacity to purify sewage water into potable water. The recycling process in vogue is to treat sewage for use in factories. This purification of sewage takes place in 3 stages.

In the first phase, sewage is temporarily allowed to stagnate. This makes heavy solids to sink and light solids and oil to float. After removing the deposited and floating articles, the remaining water is taken for second level treatment.

In the second phase micro organisms are removed. The third phase is through chemical or filtering method, after the purification in the first two stages. The purified water after the tertiary treatment can be used in place of fresh water for increasing the ground water level, for agriculture and industries and even for direct consumption. I wish to particularly point out that through this, the demand on fresh water will come down and the fresh water so saved, will be supplied to people for their use. This is the reason why Hon'ble Amma's Government is giving important to the task of setting up tertiary sewage treatment plants.

The practice of supplying 36 million litre of re-cycled sewage water per day to factories came into effect even in the year 1993, during Hon'ble Amma's regime and it continues.

For continued supply of water to the ever increasing industries in Greater Chennai, an announcement was made by Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma under Rule 110 about extending this scheme and setting up of tertiary treatment stations with 45 MLD capacity at Koyambedu and Kodungaiyur, respectively in 2012-2013 and 2014-2015.

As the first phase of this scheme, I declared open on 01.10.2019, the biggest tertiary sewage treatment plant in India, at Kodungaiyur. Industries in North Chennai and Manali are supplied water through this station. In continuation of that, I have today inaugurated this tertiary sewage treatment plant with a capacity of 45 MLD, set up at a cost of Rs.486.21 crore. This will cater to the industries in North Chennai and Sriperumbudur which are present getting 40 million litres of fresh water. Hereafter, they will get treated water.

When these two plants operate to their full capacity, 20 per cent of the sewage generated in

Chennai city would have come to be recycled. This will put Tamil Nadu at the forefront for recycling the most sewage in the whole of India. Potable water supplied to industries will hereafter be used to meet the drinking water needs of Chennai people. This water, along with that already available through the implementation of many water supply schemes, will, I categorically state, meet the needs of drinking water to Chennai City even if the monsoons fail.

Hon'ble Amma's Government will continue to implement such schemes for treating and re-cycling sewage water for conserving good water.

I am proud to state that it is the AIADMK Government that has resolved all the problems of river water, sewage water and drinking water.

For the last few days, I have been touring Tamil Nadu to inaugurate 5 new Districts, declare open the respected Ramaswamy Padayatchiyar memorial and the building complex for the Villupuram Law college, distribute welfare assistance, lay the foundation stone for new schemes and inaugurate the completed schemes. I am now here to inaugurate the tertiary sewage treatment plant today. Through these steps, I am very happy and proud to state that Tamil Nadu has been given many invaluable schemes as also welfare assistance in a short time. At this point, I wish to recall an event.

An employee of a commercial establishment was transferred to its headquarters on promotion. The manager at the Headquarters tried to get

some background about the transferred person from his erstwhile manager.

"How is he?" he asked. "Very smart," replied his erstwhile manager. "How many years has he served your branch"?. "Four years," was the reply. "What 4 years?; He told us 4 months", said the Headquarters Manager. "What he has stated is true; but he worked for 4 years", his erstwhile manager replied calmly. "Which one is true – 4 months or 4 years; only one can be true"- said the Headquarters manager. "No; both are true. He was here only for 4 months; but his work output was that of 4 years. Both are true; is it not?," said the transferee's erstwhile manager.

In this manner, it is the third year running after Hon'ble Amma's Government has assumed office; but the work done, I am happy to say, is that of 30 years.

I wish to announce through this event at this pleasant moment, the procedures to be adopted to get sewage connection easily in Chennai Metropolitan Municipal Corporation areas.

As per the Citizen Charter, the Chennai Water Supply Board takes action, at present, in 30 days to provide sewer connection. In the present process, people have to remit the full amount in advance and submit all documents. To undertake sewer connection work, permission from many Departments inclusive of Chennai Metropolitan Corporation and Police, has to be obtained. This involves delay and causes inconvenience to people. Realizing this, Hon'ble Amma's Government proposes to implement 2 schemes to simplify this procedure.

1. Connection on Call: Under this scheme, sewer connection will be provided without need to produce any document of buildings in Chennai Metropolitan area with ground and two floors, by registering the request with the Chennai Water Supply Board, either through a phone call (No.45674567) or through Internet.

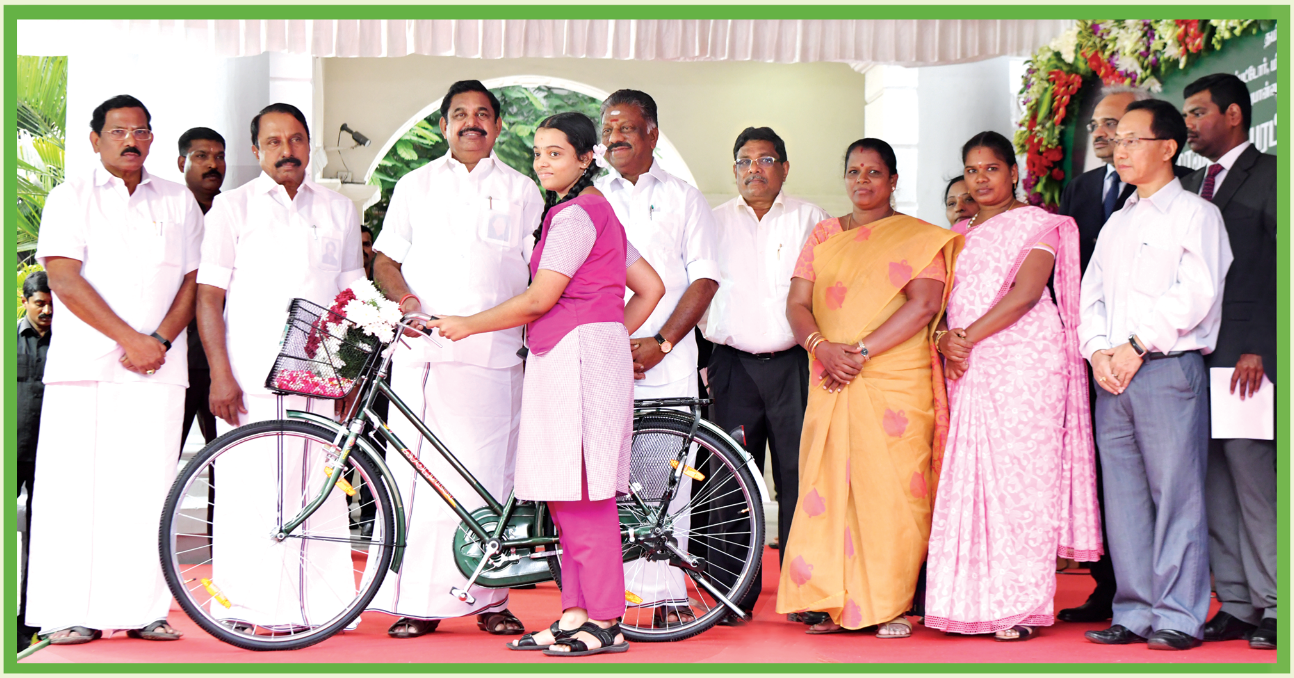
2. Individual House Connection: Under this scheme, the Chennai Water Supply Board will provide the sewer connection on its own in the extended areas of Chennai Metropolitan Corporation, to houses which do not have sewer connection, with the newly laid underground sewerage structures.

In both these schemes, people can pay the sewer connection fee to the Chennai Water Supply Board either in one instalment or in 10 instalments within 5 years along with tax and water charges. These schemes will come into effect from 02.12.2019.

My appreciation and thanks to all good hearts who have arranged this event in a good way.

Nandri! Vanakkam!

Hon'ble Chief Minister inaugurates the scheme of distribution of bicycle to students



Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Thiru.Edappadi K.Palaniswami, at the Secretariat on 23.12.2019, as a mark of inauguration of distribution of bicycles at no cost for the academic year 2019-2020, handed over 9 bicycles to students of 11th Standard in the Higher Secondary Schools of Chennai, Kancheepuram, Chengalpattu, Vellore, Ranipet, Tirupattur, Villupuram, Kallakurichi, Tirunelveli and Tenkasi Districts.

To encourage women's education in the State, Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma, in the academic year 2001-2002, launched the distribution of bicycles at no cost to girl students belonging to Adi Dravidar and Tribal Communities, studying in Plus 1 and Plus 2 of the Higher Secondary Schools in the State. Subsequently, from the academic year 2005-2006, the scheme was extended to all students studying in the 11th Standard of Government, Government-aided and partly aided higher secondary schools in the State. Under the scheme, boys and girls students are benefited immensely.

The Tamil Nadu Government, functioning on the path laid down by the Puratchi Thalaivi Amma has been implementing the scheme in a worthy manner. The Hon'ble Chief Minister inaugurated the scheme for the current academic year at the Secretariat on 23.12.2019. In the first phase, the students of 11th Standard in higher secondary schools in Chennai, Kancheepuram, Chengalpattu, Vellore, Ranipet, Tirupattur, Villupuram, Kallakurichi, Tirunelveli and Tenkasi Districts were given bicycles at no cost. As a mark of distribution of bicycles at no cost to students, the Hon'ble Chief Minister handed over the bicycles to 9 students.

Hon'ble Chief Minister fulfills long-felt demand of making Chengalpattu a separate District

Speech of the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu
Thiru. Edappadi K. Palaniswami after inaugurating the new Chengalpattu District at a function held at Chengalpattu on 29.11.2019 *(English Translation)*.

I pay my obeisance to Goddess Hon'ble Idaya Deivam Puratchi Thalaivi Amma.

At the outset, my respects to all those gracing this pleasant function.

I can understand the scale of reception to the division of this District from the huge crowd that has lined up for a distance of 7 km from the Chengalpattu District border to the place of the function and the exuberant and enthusiastic welcome given to me.

By way of fulfilling the long-standing demand of the people of this region, the new Chengalpattu District has been carved out of the Kancheepuram District. I am extremely happy to participate in the inaugural of this the 37th District in the State.

In the effective implementation of Government's welfare programmes, in supporting social development and growth and in rushing to people to extend a helping hand during times of natural calamities, Hon'ble Amma's Government, like Hon'ble Amma, is working for the people of Tamil Nadu.

Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma said: "With the aim of making available (Government) services speedily to people, my Government is executing many schemes like creation of new Districts, new Divisional and Taluk Offices and appointment of exclusive Village Administrative Offices for each

Village". Hon'ble Amma's Government, that functions on the lines of Hon'ble Amma is also creating new Districts by dividing big Districts. Accordingly, I am proud to state that the new Chengalpattu District is being inaugurated today after announcing about it in the Tamil Nadu legislative assembly on 18.07.2019 under Rule 110.

Before the country's independence, the office of the Chengalpattu District Collector and District Courts were functioning with Chengalpattu Town as headquarters. After Independence, the Chengalpattu District administrative secretariat alone was functioning at the Panagal Building at Saidapet. After Perarignar Anna became Chief Minister, he shifted the headquarters of Chengalpattu District to Kancheepuram in 1968. Later, Chengalpattu District was divided into Kancheepuram and Tiruvallur Districts. As Kancheepuram District was distant to people residing in areas inclusive of Cheyyur, Madurantakam, Thiruporur and Pallavaram were demanding for many years a new District with Chengalpattu as headquarters.

Acceding to people's request and by way of giving shape to Puratchi Thalaivi Hon'ble Amma's policy – 'Government that goes to people'- I wish to inform the happy news through this event that Hon'ble Amma's Government has divided Kancheepuram District to inaugurate today the new Chengalpattu District for bestowing exclusive attention to every region and to reach Government welfare assistance to people speedily. I wish to mention some of the salient features of the new Chengalpattu District.

Chengalpattu city will be the headquarters of Chengalpattu District. The District covers an area of 2,945 square kilometres. The District's population is 25,56,244. It comprises 3 Revenue Divisions – Chengalpattu, Maduranthakam and Tambaram – 8 Taluks – Thirukazhukundram, Maduranthakam, Chengalpattu, Cheyyur, Thiruporur, Tambaram, Pallavaram and Vandalur – 40 firkas and 636 Revenue Villages. It has 8 Municipalities – Maduranthakam, Chengalpattu, Maraimalai Nagar, Pallavaram, Tambaram, Sembakkam, Pammal and Anakaputhur – 8 Panchayat Unions inclusive of Acharapakkam and Lathur, 12 Town Panchayats inclusive of Mamallapuram and Chitlapakkam and 359 Village Panchayats.

It is said this District was first known as 'Sengazhuneerpattu' because of the abundance of 'sengazhuneer' flowers in the water bodies here and this name got changed into Chengalpattu later. Chengalpattu is an ancient Town, dating back to the Pallava dynasty. Mountains surround three sides of the Town and the Kolavai lake is on the fourth side. Lakes abound in this District. Maduranthakam lake is one of the biggest lakes in the State. The District has many industries and educational institutions on par with agriculture here. The Kalpakkam Atomic Power Station is in this District.

The Mamallapuram rock temples, created during the Pallava period, proclaim the greatness of the great artistic talent of the Tamils. A Vishnu temple constructed by the Vijayanagar emperors, after the Pallavas, is also there in Mamallapuram. The Krishna Mandapam, sculpted over the Govardhana sculpture cluster,

Arjuna's penance, the shore temple, five Ratha temples and other sculptures are all classic marvels. Once when Narasimhavarman, also known as Mamallar, went on a walk with his father, he drew the figure of an elephant on a rock. On seeing it, his father got the idea that rocks could be transformed into immortal temples. So he named that Town after his son. In 1984, UNESCO declared the Mamallapuram monuments as a World Heritage Site. Hon'ble former Prime Minister of India Jawaharlal Nehru and the then Prime Minister of China visited Mamallapuram on 6th December 1956. Some 63 years after, a historic meet between Hon'ble Prime Minister of India and Hon'ble Chinese President took place here on 11.10.2019 and 12.10.2019. The security measures taken for this event and the reception given attracted the world's attention. As such, we have attained the honour of having a venue of world leaders' meet in Mamallapuram in Tamil Nadu.

The temples of Sri Agora Veera Badhrar in Hanumanthapuram, known for bestowing peace of mind, Sri Nandeeswasrar in Nandhivaram, who confers every prosperity, the Narasimhar temple in Singaperumal Kovil, Nithyakalyana Perumal temple in Thiruvidanthai, Thirukazhukundram where the conch comes out of the tank, the Hayagreevar temple in Chettipunyam and Siva's temple in Acharapakkam – all declare the greatness of this District.

History says that during the British rule, a British Collector had a vision of Arulmigu Kothandaramar Himself guarding the Maduranthakam lake, when he came to that area to strengthen the bunds of the lake on a day of very heavy rains in Maduranthakam with the possibility of the lake breaching. Hence that temple came to be known as 'Yeri Kaattha Raamar temple' (Temple of Ramar, the protector of the Lake).

Thirumalai Vaiyavur, known as the Southern Thiruvengadam is in this District. Arulmigu Prasanna Venkatesa Perumal, presents Himself in the standing posture on top of the hill, here. Murugaperuman vanquished a demon, fighting him on land, sky and sea. Sthala Puranam says that the place where Murugaperuman cowed down the demon in the sky is the holy place of Thiruporur.

Thousands of birds from countries like Canada, Siberia, Bangladesh, Burma and Australia flock to Vedanthangal in this District from October to March for nesting. In this way, Tamil Nadu has the honour of having the famous bird sanctuary in Chengalpattu District. Tourist attractions like Muttukadu boat house, Mudaliarkuppam boat house and Vandalur Arignar Anna Zoological Park are also in this District. For the first time outside India's capital, a 'Defence Expo-2018' was held at Thiruvidanthai in this District for 4 days from April 11 with Hon'ble Prime Minister's participation. Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma's Government received encomiums from the Central Government for making all preparatory arrangements for this exhibition.

With such countless excellences, this District can also be called 'the Gateway of Chennai' as it is the threshold to the State's capital from southern Districts.

As for Chengalpattu District, road works to a length of 1,313 km and 52 bridge works

were completed at a cost of Rs.1,451 crore between 2011 and 2018. In the current year, road works to a length of 215 km and 10 bridge works are under execution at a cost of Rs.1,409 crore.

I am happy to inform that restoration of the Kolavai lake in Chengalpattu is to be taken up at a cost of Rs.90 crore for improving the drinking water resource to parts of that city. For flood prevention in parts of Chengalpattu, a special fund of Rs.104 crore was allotted and deepening works of 5 lakes including Manimangalam lake were completed in 6 months. Flood prevention works in areas like Keezhkattalai, S.Kolathur and Pallikaranai through widening the mouth of the Keezhkattalai outlet channel at a cost of Rs.17 crore and constructing a flood retaining wall, have been taken up. Also, the second phase permanent works are to be taken up at a cost of Rs.244 crore.

Likewise, the setting up of a closed flood water drain for the outlets of Tambaram Big lake at a cost of Rs.14 crore and a new river basin reservoir at a cost of Rs.11.25 crore by linking Adyar and Varadarajapuram Thangal lake are to be taken up. Through this work 80 million cubic ft. flood water can be stored. Also, this will obviate flood danger, protect farmers and meet the drinking water needs.

At this hour, I wish to proudly point out that in the erstwhile united Kancheepuram District, 52 PWD works costing Rs.282.79 crore, 80 Highways Department works costing Rs.118.77 crore, 121 rural development works costing Rs.13.41 crore, 55 Town Panchayat Department works costing Rs.13.88 crore and 6 works of the Municipal Administration Department costing Rs.2.25 crore – totally 314 works costing Rs.431 crore – were completed. Setting up a reservoir across Orathur Madu, a branch river of Adyar, at a cost of Rs.60 crore to mitigate danger of flood in Orathur branch river in Adyar area, is going on in full swing. Provisions have been made to store 1.35 TMC ft. of water in this reservoir by linking it with Orathur lake-Arambakkam lake and Orathur anaicut.

Works are afoot for preparing a survey report for the 'Medipark' scheme for manufacture of medical ancillary tools in Chengalpattu. Implementation of this scheme will start in six months. When the scheme

comes to fruition, the Government would have created conditions for more number of persons to get jobs. To prevent fatalities due to accidents, many steps have been undertaken in the Chengalpattu Government Medical College Hospital at a cost of Rs. 39 crore, inclusive of an Accident and Emergency Treatment Centre at a cost of Rs.19.46 crore, a Cathlab centre at a cost of Rs.3.43 crore and installation of an M.R.I. Scan costing Rs.7 crore. Likewise, Accident and Emergency Treatment Centres are being set up at a cost of Rs.8.83 crore at the Tambaram and Sriperumbudur Government hospitals. I am happy to inform that I laid the foundation stone last week for a Yoga and Naturopathy Centre, the traditional indigenous system of medicine, to come up on global standards at a cost of about Rs.92 crore.

In the inaugural of an industrially resourceful Chengalpattu District, I particularly wish to mention some of the achievements of Honb'le Amma's Government in the field of industry.

Following the success of the Global Investors Meet held in Chennai in 2015, the second such Meet took place at the beginning of this year. In that Meet, Rs.3,00,431 crore worth investments were attracted through 304 Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs). Of these, 270 companies have started works and these are in various stages of implementation. This is about 90 per cent of the MoUs signed. Works have been started on 3,573 industrial schemes, signed by the Department of Micro, Small and Medium Industries and they are under various stages of implementation. But Thiru. Stalin is leveling many charges. He has made the accusation that the AIADMK Government is spreading false information among people. He asks, "You claim you have conducted a Global Investors Meet and attracted investments worth crores of rupees. How much investment has come to Tamil Nadu? Of the MoUs signed, how many have fructified?". I have given the figures only in this regard.

On my official tour to the US, England and Dubai recently, MoUs valued at Rs.8,835 crore were signed with 41 companies and this will create job opportunities to more than 35,000 persons. Of these, I have already inaugurated 2 schemes and 3 more are to be inaugurated tomorrow.

To get suggestions from global Tamils for improving Tamil Nadu's industrial growth further and to receive overseas Tamils coming to start industries in Tamil Nadu, I announced in the preceding Assembly session, a new scheme called 'Yaadhum Oorey' On behalf of Tamil Nadu Government, I went to the US and inaugurated the scheme that aims to link Tamils all over the globe to make them act as a connecting bridge. On this occasion, I proudly state that we have designed and are implementing many schemes for the development of the industrial sector, like according sanction under single window processing through the Tamil Nadu Business Facilitation Act, forming a high-level committee under my leadership to monitor and expedite such single window sanctions, having a separate section in Chief Minister's office for ease of investment and unveiling of electric vehicle policy.

For increasing industrial investment, I have met 48 foreign ambassadors and representatives

so far and briefed them about the conducive features and Districts for starting industries. The important factor behind all this is that our state continues to be a power surplus State. Tamil Nadu's journey towards a power surplus State, started in Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma's rule and today, it has been accomplished.

On behalf of Hon'ble Amma's Government that implements many welfare schemes like the above, I have declared open in this event 181 works, completed at a cost of Rs.113.93 crore inclusive of 3 works of the PWD costing Rs.47 crore.

I have laid the foundation for 213 works to be executed at a cost of Rs.128.09 crore inclusive of 110 works of the Rural Development Department costing Rs.61.69 crore. Likewise, welfare assistance to the tune of Rs.67.79 crore has been distributed through this event to 8,624 beneficiaries.

While Hon'ble Amma's Government is taking many steps to benefit the people, there are some whose main occupation is to put hurdles to Government schemes. People know their characteristics well. The truth is that those who work for the public cause will be rewarded automatically. When I say this, I am reminded of a story.

At a temple function where a large number of devotees had gathered, a shining golden plate fell from the skies on the courtyard. One of the temple executives picked it up and he wondered whether it was for the temple or for one of the devotees.

He saw the sentence, "God's gift to the one who loves most" written on the plate. The temple executive announced that devotees could come next day, explain the good deeds they had done out of their love for humanity, and collect the plate. On the next day, there was a huge crowd. Each one narrated his or her good deeds. A rich man claimed he had been donating his properties to the poor. The temple executive gave the plate to him. Even while the official was wondering about the veracity of the rich man's claim, the plate in the rich man's hand turned into tinsel! All the people murmured: "So the gold plate turns into tinsel if it goes into unworthy hands."

Many wealthy persons came to that Town and tried to get the golden plate, enumerating their acts of philanthropy but they were exposed when the plate turned into tinsel in their hands. After some days, a simple man came to that temple. He had no knowledge of the affair of the plate. He went to worship the God but was shocked to see a large number of poor people there. "So many poverty stricken people in this country," he felt and his heart melted when he saw many of the poor were physically handicapped also, being without leg, hand, vision or the power of speech. He went into the temple to pray before God for their relief from misery. At that time, the temple executive lost the golden plate in the jostling of the crowd and it fell into the hands of the good-hearted simple man. To the surprise of all, the plate continue to glitter without turning into tinsel. The temple executive was highly pleased and said, "Sir, you are the embodiment of love. You alone deserve this golden plate."

Hon'ble Amma's Government is implementing many welfare schemes for the poor and downtrodden motivated by the concepts, "I am for the people; I am for people alone," and "Government that seeks out people." Just like the simple man got the golden plate for his concern for the masses, people will give us the golden plate of victory in all future elections too as they have done in the by-elections by recognizing our work for them. This is certain.

In his press meet today, Stalin has uttered a blatant lie. He has said: "The State Election Commission has announced that Local Bodies election will be held soon. That announcement reveals that local body wards have not been demarcated properly; no proper publication of notifications. For the newly created Districts, wards have not been demarcated properly. The Chief Minister has suddenly cancelled direct election and announced election will be ward wise. The AIADMK Government appears to be executing all these things deliberately to stop the election."

Till 1996, local bodies elections were held ward wise and through it chair persons were elected. Till that year, election to the post of Mayor in Tamil Nadu was through indirect election. After that, during the DMK rule, direct election was introduced. In 2006, the changing of the direct election into indirect election was also announced by the then Local Administration Minister and present leader of the opposition, Thiru. Stalin only. He had replied in the Assembly clearly and in detail the reasons for conducting the indirect election. On 31.08.2006, Thiru. Stalin who was then Rural Development and Local Administration Minister tabled the draft bill in the Assembly for changing the direct election to indirect election for the posts of Mayor of Municipal Corporations and Chairpersons of Town Panchayats. In his speech on 31.08.2006, Thiru. Stalin listed many States like Assam and Gujarat where chairpersons were elected through indirect election and sought the passage of the resolution. Speaking on the resolution on 31.08.2006, Thiru. Stalin said: "As the Mayor and majority of the elected Members happen to come from different parties (in the direct election), a situation arises where people's basic issues cannot be passed in the council meeting. To prevent stagnation of people's issues, we are bringing this (indirect election). For example, in the Villupuram, and Virudhachalam Municipalities, after the 2001 election, council meetings could not take place in a proper way till date, August 2006. Resolutions that could be moved and passed were pushed to the extent that they could not be passed wholly. Taking these developments also into consideration, we are implementing this method now", and requested the Assembly to pass the resolution. When he was local administration Minister, Thiru. Stalin himself had stated in the Assembly that conducting elections ward wise would be excellent. As far as we are concerned, we have announced the holding of election ward wise. What is wrong in that? If you make such an announcement it is right; if we do it, is it wrong? It is the councillors, elected by the people, who are electing the Chairpersons of Town Panchayats and Municipalities and Mayors. What is wrong in it? There is nothing wrong. Thiru. Stalin is

levelling a false charge deliberately and in a scheming manner to stop this election. In fact, I feel he is afraid of this election. In many public meetings and wherever he goes, Stalin blames the AIADMK for not conducting the local bodies election and makes the accusation that this has resulted in difficulties to people in water supply, clearing of sewage and in street lighting. He indulges in heroic rhetoric saying that the AIADMK Government is afraid of holding the election. He poses the question whether AIADMK has the courage, ability and strength to conduct the local bodies election. We say we have all these qualities. We clarify that if the State Election Commission announces local bodies election, the AIADMK and its alliance partners have the strength to face it. You trot out lame excuses and seek to go to court. I wish to state that all your efforts to stop this election will not fructify.

Local bodies are the bridge between the people and the Government; they fulfill the basic needs of the people. To stop elections to that body, they have gone to court to file a case today. About that, I wish to mention a few things here. On 28.11.2019, the DMK advocate Amit Tiwari filed an interim petition in the Supreme Court seeking an injunction to stop the announcement of election dates to local bodies. He went to the first bench of the court headed by the Chief Justice and pleaded for the listing and hearing of the petition on that day itself. But the Chief Justice said the case would be heard on the day it was listed for hearing. The Supreme Court has not agreed to the DMK's request for immediate hearing of the case. The case was postponed. Also, the reason advanced for the stopping the election is a totally wrong and false one. I feel the DMK leader is afraid to face this election. I will explain.

The Election Commission of India issued a statement in regard to revised voter list category. Local bodies elections in Tamil Nadu in 1996, 2001, 2006 and 2011 were

held based on the delineation of wards as per the 1991 census. When all preparatory works for conducting local bodies election in 2016 were afoot, the DMK filed a case that election should be held only after delineating wards as per the 2011 census. When the Madras High Court dismissed the case, the DMK went on appeal to the Supreme Court. Till date, the case is pending. After the State Election Commission announced the election in 2016, the DMK again filed a case stating that reservation for scheduled tribes had not been made properly and that the election schedule should allot sufficient time for the conduct of the election. Though the State Election Commission argued in the Supreme Court that the 2016 election schedule followed those adopted in the conduct of the local bodies election in the years 1996, 2001, 2006 and 2011, the court cancelled the election. The Tamil Nadu Government then advised the State Election Commission to re-delineate rural and urban wards based on 2011 census figures. The Commission did it, published the delineation report for each ward and sought people's opinion on it. Only after the completion of this work, re-delineation of wards as per the 2011 census was published in the Government gazette. The Tamil Nadu Government followed this, reserving seats for scheduled castes, scheduled tribes and women in proportion to their population. Even after completing these works in the proper way, the DMK continues to place hurdles by filing cases and preventing the holding of the local bodies election. There is no connection between creation of new Districts and the conduct of local bodies election. A Government order was issued in regard to creation of new Districts in 2018 itself. If the DMK had any doubts, it could have gone to the court even then. It did not do that. After the delineation of wards, it was put to public scrutiny. As a result of the notification, inviting objections from political parties and the general public over the delineation, more than 8,000 petitions were received. The Election Commission had announced that the objections were examined and wards properly delineated. Even after the State Election Commission had done all these things as per the procedures, the DMK President is giving interviews without guts and courage to face the elections. The State Government is extending the needed help to the State Election Commission.

This Government has gained strength as it is fulfilling the basic needs of the poor and downtrodden. We are ready to meet the election for running the local bodies in an excellent way. The DMK's stance in respect of the election is akin to the proverbs - "Pinching the child and rocking the cradle" and " A sleeping man can be woken up but not the one who feigns to sleep."

I wish to make a few announcements here for further enhancement of the Chengalpattu District in different fields.

1. A check dam will be constructed across Palar near Irumbulicheri Village, Maduranthakam Taluk at a cost of Rs.40 crore; this will rejuvenate the ground water for the wells in the surrounding Villages of Nallathur, Poigainallur, Irumbulicheri, Purancheri, Thandarai, Nerumbur and Attavattam. Besides benefiting 1,340 hectares of land, it will meet the drinking water needs also.

2. A check dam will be constructed across Manamathi Madu near Panchanthiruthi, Thiruporur Taluk at a cost of Rs. 5 crore.

3. Another check dam across Manamathi Madu will be constructed near Pandithamedu Village, Thiruporur Taluk at a cost of Rs.5 crore. Through these 2 check dams, 19 million cubic ft. of water will be stored to recharge the ground water table in the Villages of Manamathi, Punnappattu, Agaram and Karanai and irrigation and drinking water needs will be fulfilled.

4. A check dam will be constructed across Killiyaru near Sempoondi Village, Maduranthakam Taluk at a cost of Rs.4.5 crore, benefiting the surrounding Villages of Sempoondi, Pasuvankaranai and Orathur.

5. Mamallapuram has become the cynosure of all eyes globally after the meeting there between Hon'ble Prime Minister of India and the President of China. As tourist arrivals have increased several-fold there, schemes will be implemented with Central Government's support to improve infrastructure facilities and modernize the existing facilities there to fulfill the needs of tourists.

6. The Tamil Nadu Tourism Development Corporation proposes to operate an air-conditioned bus for a quick visit to the historical monuments in Mamallapuram inclusive of shore temple, 5 pagodas, Arjuna's penance, art museum, light-house and tiger cave at Rs.50 per head. A special feature of this trip is tourists can board and alight at any monument.

7. Under the Prime Minister's House for All scheme, 1,260 apartments will be constructed at a cost of Rs.151 crore at Murugamangalam Village, Chengalpattu Taluk.

8. Likewise, 1,760 apartments will be constructed at a cost of Rs.157 crore at Keerapakkam Village, Chengalpattu Taluk under the Prime Minister's Housing for All scheme.

The State Election Commission convened an all-party meeting yesterday. The DMK representative at the meeting Thiru.N.R.Elango demanded that the Commission should use electronic voting machine at all places where the local bodies election is held. In the election manifesto released by the DMK before the 2019 parliament election, it had mentioned that DMK would continue to insist on important electoral reforms like restoration of ballot paper method in place of electronic voting machines in polling (No.11 under the heading Electoral Reforms). At the all-party meeting convened for the Lok Sabha election at New Delhi in 2019, the DMK representative, respected Thiru. T.K.S. Elangovan said: "We have no faith in electronic voting machines; implement the ballot paper method of voting again". In yesterday's meeting convened by the State Election Commission, Thiru.N.R. Elango, speaking on behalf of DMK, wanted electronic voting machines to be used. What a joke! DMK is the only party in Tamil Nadu without a policy.

As I have already mentioned, the chameleon changes colour often. I feel, from what I have stated, you would have clearly understood that the DMK is the only party that changes

its policies faster than the chameleon. So, he is trying to postpone the local bodies election by planning and creating some confusion deliberately. That will not happen. As for the State Election Commission, it has completed delineation of wards for the proper conduct of the election. It is also stated that division of Districts for the creation of new ones will pose problems. The Election Commission has clearly stated that election will be held as per the delineation of wards effected in 2018 in the newly created Districts also. So, there is no confusion here. All the confusion is with Thiru. Stalin; not with the Election Commission or with other parties.

Stagnation of rain water in Tamil Nadu during rainy seasons leads to increase in mosquito population. As a result, people are afflicted with mysterious fevers. To save the people from this missery, Amma's Government will implement the scheme of distribution of mosquito nets to poor people. I wish to convey the happy news that our Government will distribute to the poor, excellent nylon mosquito nets. Some people wanted this distribution to be extended to all. The Government will examine that also shortly. At present, the scheme is confined to the poor alone.

I have come here after announcing and inaugurating this morning the distribution of the special Pongal gift of Rs.1,000 each to about 2.05 crore families holding the rice family card so that all families can celebrate Thai Pongal festival in a grand manner. Our aim is to remove the difficulties of the poor and downtrodden people in Tamil Nadu. We are marching victoriously on that ideal path. In future, Tamil Nadu will also be turned into a State that has no huts.

Chengalpattu District is full of lakes. My first inauguration of the '*kudimaramathu*' scheme was in this lake-filled District. We continue its implementation for the benefit of farmers. This scheme is to conserve the rain water obtained during monsoon periods.

Likewise, we have made check dam construction a 3-year scheme, allotted Rs.1,000 crore and are implementing it. That was shown here beautifully through a DVD on my arrival. Today, we have demonstrated with statistics that the AIADMK Government translates its announcements into action. We see the visuals of water getting stored in the check dams, a result of the construction of check dams by Hon'ble Amma's Government. We are proving that this is a people's Government, the only Government that can resolve the problems of the people.

In deference to the long-standing demand, Kancheepuram District was divided and today we have inaugurated the newly created Chengalpattu District with Chengalpattu as its headquarters. This region has a large population of farmers and is also full of industries. Stating that this Government will always be supportive of this District, I thank Hon'ble Revenue Minister Thiru. R.B. Udhayakumar for taking quick steps for the creation of this District, high officials of the Government who stood by him and the District Collector. The new District has come about quickly due to the continuous pressure exerted by the people and party executives. Conveying my good wishes for all prosperity and excellence to this District and thanks for the opportunity given to me, I take leave of you.

Nandri! Vanakkam!

Public Holidays for the year 2020

Under the "Explanation" to Section 25 of the Negotiable Instruments Act, 1881 (Central Act XXVI of 1881) read with Notification of the Government of India, Ministry of Home Affairs, No.20-25-26, Public-1, dated the 8th June 1957, the Government of Tamil Nadu hereby declares, that in addition to "Sundays" expressly defined as Public Holidays in the said "Explanation" the following days shall be Public Holidays for the year 2020.

ANNEXURE

SI.No	Public Holidays	Date	Day
1.	New Year's Day	01.01.2020	Wednesday
2.	Pongal	15.01.2020	Wednesday
3.	Thiruvalluvar Day	16.01.2020	Thursday
4.	Uzhavar Thirunal	17.01.2020	Friday
5.	Republic Day	26.01.2020	Sunday
6.	Telugu New Year's Day	25.03.2020	Wednesday
7.	*Annual closing of Accounts for Commercial Banks & Co-operative Banks	01.04.2020	Wednesday
8.	Mahaveer Jayanthi	06.04.2020	Monday
9.	Good Friday	10.04.2020	Friday
10.	Tamil New Year's Day and Dr.B.R.Ambedkar's Birthday	14.04.2020	Tuesday
11.	May Day	01.05.2020	Friday
12.	Ramzan	25.05.2020	Monday
13.	Bakrid	01.08.2020	Saturday
14.	Krishna Jayanthi	11.08.2020	Tuesday
15.	Independence Day	15.08.2020	Saturday
16.	Vinayakar Chathurthi	22.08.2020	Saturday
17.	Muharram	30.08.2020	Sunday
18.	Gandhi Jayanthi	02.10.2020	Friday
19.	Ayutha Pooja	25.10.2020	Sunday
20.	Vijaya Dasami	26.10.2020	Monday
21.	Milad-un-Nabi	30.10.2020	Friday
22.	Deepavali	14.11.2020	Saturday
23.	Christmas	25.12.2020	Friday

*Applicable only to Commercial Banks and Co-operative Banks in Tamil Nadu.

Tamilarasu

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Hon’ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu **Thiru. Edappadi K. Palaniswami** inaugurating the 46th India Tourist and Industrial Fair 2019-2020 at the Island Grounds in Chennai, on 22.12.2019.

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